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PLUTARCH'S LIVES,

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL GREEK,

WITH NOTES,

CRITICAL AND HISTORICAL,

AND

A New Life of Plutarch.

BY JOHN LANGHORNE, D. D.

AND

WILLIAM LANGHORNE, M. A.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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PLUTARCH'S LIVES

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WITH NOTES

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BY JOHN MACHONIE, B.A.

WILLIAM BARNES, B.A.

VOL. III.

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PLUTARCH'S

LIVES.

PHILOPOEMEN.

AT Mantinea there was a man of great quality and power named Cassander *, who, being obliged, by a reverse of fortune to quit his own country, went and settled at Megalopolis. He was induced to fix there, chiefly by the friendship which subsisted between him and Crausis † the father of Philopoemen, who was in all respects an extraordinary man. While his friend lived, he had all that he could wish; and being desirous, after his death, to make some return for his hospitality, he educated his orphan son,

* Pausanias calls him *Cleander*; and some manuscripts of Plutarch agree with him. So it is also in the translation of Guarini.

† Craugis in Pausanias; in the inscription of a statue of Philopoemen at Tegeae; and in an ancient collection of epigrams.

in the same manner as Homer says Achilles was educated by Phoenix, and formed him from his infancy to generous sentiments and royal virtues.

But when he was past the years of childhood, Ecdemus * and Demophanes had the principal care of him. They were both Megalopolitans: who, having learned the academic philosophy of Arcefilaus †, applied it, above all the men of their time, to action and affairs of state. They delivered their country from tyranny, by providing persons privately to take off Aristodemus: they were assisting to Aratus in driving out Nicocles the tyrant of Sicyon: and, at the request of the people of Cyrene, whose government was in great disorder, they sailed thither, settled it on the foundation of good laws, and thoroughly regulated the commonwealth. But, among all their great actions, they valued themselves most on the education of Philopoemen, as having rendered him, by the principles of Philosophy, a common benefit to Greece. And indeed, as he came the last of so many excellent generals, Greece loved him extremely, as the child of her old age, and, as his reputation increased, enlarged his power. For which reason a certain Roman calls him *the last of the Greeks*, meaning that Greece had not produced one great man, or one that was worthy of her, after him.

His visage was not very homely ‡, as some imagine it to have been; for we see his statue still remaining at Delphi. As for the mistake of his hostess at Megara, it is said to be owing to his easiness of behaviour and the simplicity of his garb. She having word brought that the general of the Achaeans was coming to her house, was in great care and hurry to provide

* In Pausanias their names are Ecdelus and Megalophanes.

† Arcefilaus was founder of the middle Academy, and made some alteration in the doctrine which had obtained.

‡ Pausanias assures us that his visage was homely, but at the same time declares, that in point of size and strength no man in Peloponnesus exceeded him.

his supper, her husband happening to be out of the way. In the mean time Philopoemen came, and, as his habit was ordinary, she took him for one of his own servants, or for an harbinger, and desired him to assist her in the business of the kitchen. He presently threw off his cloak, and began to cleave some wood; when the master of the house returning and seeing him so employed, said, "What is the meaning of this, Philopoemen?" He replied, in broad Doric, "I am paying the fine of my deformity." Titus Flaminus rallying him one day upon his make, said, "What fine hands and legs you have! but then you have no belly:" and he was indeed very slender in the waist. But this raillery might rather be referred to the condition of his fortune: for he had good soldiers, both horse and foot, but very often wanted money to pay them. These stories are subjects of disputations in the schools.

As to his manners; we find that his pursuits of honour were too much attended with roughness and passion. Epaminondas was the person whom he proposed for his pattern; and he succeeded in imitating his activity, his shrewdness, and contempt of riches; but his cholerick, contentious humour prevented his attaining to the mildness, the gravity, and candour of that great man in political disputes; so that he seemed rather fit for war, than for the civil administration. Indeed, from a child he was fond of every thing in the military way, and readily entered into the exercises which tended to that purpose, as those of riding, and handling of arms. As he seemed well formed for wrestling too, his friends and governors advised him to improve himself in that art, which gave him occasion to ask, whether that might be consistent with his proficiency as a soldier? They told him the truth; that the habit of body and manner of life, the diet and exercise of a soldier and a wrestler were entirely different; that the wrestler

must have much sleep and full meals, stated times of exercise and rest, every little departure from his rules being very prejudicial to him : whereas the soldier should be prepared for the most irregular changes of living, and should chiefly endeavour to bring himself to bear the want of food and sleep, without difficulty. Philopoemen hearing this, not only avoided and derided the exercise of wrestling himself ; but afterwards, when he came to be general, to the utmost of his power exploded the whole art, by every mark of disgrace and expression of contempt ; satisfied that it rendered persons, who were the most fit for war, quite useless and unable to fight on necessary occasions.

When his governors and preceptors had quitted their charge, he engaged in those private incursions into Laconia which the city of Megalopolis made for the sake of booty ; and in these he was sure to be the first to march out, and the last to return.

His leisure time he spent either in the chase, which increased both his strength and activity, or in the tillage of the field. For he had a handsome estate twenty furlongs from the city, to which he went every day after dinner, or after supper ; and, at night he threw himself upon an ordinary mattress, and slept as one of the labourers. Early in the morning he rose and went to work along with his vine-dressers or plowmen ; after which he returned to the town, and employed his time about the public affairs with his friends and with the magistrates. What he gained in the wars, he laid out upon horses or arms, or in the redeeming of captives : but he endeavoured to improve his own estate, the justest way in the world, by agriculture I mean *. Nor did he apply himself to it in a cursory manner, but in full convic-

* Columella says agriculture is next a-kin to philosophy. It does, indeed, afford a person who is capable of speculation, an opportunity of meditating on nature ; and such meditations enlarge the mind.

tion that the surest way not to touch what belongs to others, is to take care of one's own.

He spent some time in hearing the discourses and studying the writings of philosophers; but selected such as he thought might assist his progress in virtue. Among the poetical images in Homer, he attended to those which seemed to excite and encourage valour: and as to other authors, he was most conversant in the *Tactics* of Evangelus*, and in the histories of Alexander; being persuaded that learning ought to conduce to action, and not be considered as mere pastime and an useless fund for talk. In the study of *Tactics*, he neglected those plans and diagrams that are drawn upon paper, and exemplified the rules in the field; considering with himself as he travelled, and pointing out to those about him the difficulties of steep or broken ground; and how the ranks of an army must be extended or closed, according to the difference made by rivers, ditches and defiles.

He seems, indeed, to have set rather too great a value on military knowledge, embracing war as the most extensive exercise of virtue, and despising those that were not versed in it, as persons entirely useless.

He was now thirty years old, when Cleomenes†, king of the Lacedaemonians, surprised Megalopolis in the night, and having forced the guards, entered and seized the market-place. Philopoemen ran to succour the inhabitants, but was not able to drive out the enemy, though he fought with the most deter-

* This author is mentioned by Arrian, who also wrote a discourse on *Tactics*. He observes that the treatise of Evangelus, as well as those of several other writers on that subject, were become of little use in his time, because they had omitted several things as sufficiently known in their days, which however then wanted explanation. This may serve as a caution to future writers on this and such like subjects.

† Cleomenes made himself master of Megalopolis in the second year of the hundred and thirty-ninth Olympiad, which was the two hundred and twenty-first before the Christian æra.

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mined and desperate valour. He prevailed, however, so far as to give the people opportunity to steal out of the town, by maintaining the combat with the pursuers, and drawing Cleomenes upon himself, so that he retired the last, with difficulty, and after prodigious efforts, being wounded, and having his horse killed under him. When they had gained Messene, Cleomenes made them an offer of their city with their lands and goods. Philopoemen perceiving they were glad to accept the proposal, and in haste to return, strongly opposed it, representing to them in a set speech, that Cleomenes did not want to restore them their city, but to be master of the citizens, in order that he might be more secure of keeping the place: that he could not sit still long to watch empty houses and walls, for the very solitude would force him away. By this argument he turned the Megalopolitans from their purpose, but at the same time furnished Cleomenes with a pretence to plunder the town and demolish the greatest part of it, and to march off loaded with booty.

Soon after, Antigonus came down to assist the Achaeans against Cleomenes; and finding that he had possessed himself of the heights of Sellasia, and blocked up the passages, Antigonus drew up his army near him, with a resolution to force him from his post. Philopoemen, with his citizens, was placed among the cavalry, supported by the Illyrian foot, a numerous and gallant body of men, who closed that extremity. They had orders to wait quietly, till from the other wing, where the king fought in person, they should see a red robe lifted up upon the point of a spear. The Achaeans kept their ground, as they were directed; but the Illyrian officers with their corps attempted to break in upon the Lacedaemonians. Euclidas, the brother of Cleomenes, seeing this opening made in the enemy's army, immediately ordered a party of his light-armed infantry, to wheel about and attack the rear of the Illyrians, thus separated

rated from the horse. This being put in execution, and the Illyrians harassed and broken, Philopoemen perceived that it would be no difficult matter to drive off that light-armed party, and that the occasion called for it. First, he mentioned the thing to the king's officers, but they rejected the hint, and considered him as no better than a madman, his reputation being not yet respectable enough to justify such a movement. He, therefore, with his Megalopolitans, falling upon that light-armed corps himself, at the first encounter put them in confusion, and soon after routed them with great slaughter. Desirous yet farther to encourage Antigonus's troops, and quickly to penetrate into the enemy's army which was now in some disorder, he quitted his horse: and advancing on foot, in his horseman's coat of mail and other heavy accoutrements, upon rough uneven ground, that was full of springs and bogs, he was making his way with extreme difficulty, when he had both his thighs struck through with a javelin, so that the point came through on the other side, and the wound was great, though not mortal. At first he stood still as if he had been shackled, not knowing what method to take. For the thong in the middle of the javelin rendered it difficult to be drawn out; nor would any about him venture to do it. At the same time the fight being at the hottest, and likely to be soon over, honour and indignation pushed him on to take his share in it; and therefore, by moving his legs this way and that, he broke the staff, and then ordered the pieces to be pulled out. Thus set free, he ran, sword in hand, through the first ranks, to charge the enemy; at the same time animating the troops, and firing them with emulation.

Antigonus, having gained the victory, to try his Macedonian officers, demanded of them, "Why they had brought on the cavalry before he gave them the signal?" By way of apology they said, "They were obliged, against their will, to come to
B 4 " action,

“ action, because a young man of Megalopolis had begun the attack too soon.” “ That young man,” replied Antigonus, smiling, “ has performed the office of an experienced general.”

This action, as we may easily imagine, lifted Philopoemen into great reputation, so that Antigonus was very desirous of having his service in the wars, and offered him a considerable command with great appointments ; but he declined it, because he knew he could not bear to be under the direction of another. Not chusing, however, to lie idle, and hearing there was a war in Crete, he sailed thither, to exercise and improve his military talents. When he had served there a good while, along with a set of bravemen, who were not only versed in all the stratagems of war, but temperate besides, and strict in their manner of living, he returned with so much renown to the Achaeans, that they immediately appointed him general of horse. He found that the cavalry made use of small and mean horses, which they picked up as they could when they were called to a campaign ; that many of them shunned the wars, and sent others in their stead* ; and that a shameful ignorance of service, with, its consequence, timidity, prevailed among them all. The former generals had connived at this, because, it being a degree of honour among the Achaeans to serve on horseback, the cavalry had great power in the commonwealth, and considerable influence in the distribution of rewards and punishments. But Philopoemen would not yield to such considerations, or grant them the least indulgence. Instead of that, he applied to the several towns, and to each of the young men in particular, rousing them to a sense of honour, pu-

* Δεινὴν δὲ ἀπειρίαν μετὰ ἀτολμίας πάντων ἔσαν.—The Latin translation, *esset etiam singularis omnium cum ignavia inertia*, being a little obscure in this passage, though the Greek is very clear, the former English translator entirely omitted it. The passage, however, is of importance, and well deserves the consideration of every military man.

nishing where necessity required, and practising them in exercise, reviews, and mock-battles, in places of the greatest resort. By these means in a little time he brought them to surprising strength and spirit; and, what is of most consequence in discipline, rendered them so light and quick, that all their evolutions and movements, whether performed separately or together, were executed with so much readiness and address, that their motion was like that of one body actuated by an internal voluntary principle. In the great battle* which they fought with the Ætolians and Eleans near the river Larissus, Demophantus, general of the Elean horse, advanced before the lines, at full speed, against Philopoemen. Philopoemen, preventing his blow, with a push of his spear brought him dead to the ground. The enemy seeing Demophantus fall, immediately fled. And now Philopoemen was universally celebrated, as not inferior to the young in personal valour, nor to the old in prudence, and as equally well qualified, both to fight and to command.

Aratus was, indeed, the first who raised the commonwealth of the Achæans to dignity and power. For, whereas before they were in a low condition, dispersed in unconnected cities, he united them in one body, and gave them a moderate civil government worthy of Greece. And as it happens in running waters, that when a few small bodies stop, others stick to them, and one part strengthening another, the whole becomes one firm and solid mass, so it was with Greece. At a time when she was weak and easily broken, dispersed as she was in a variety of cities, which stood each upon his own bottom, the Achæans first united themselves, and then drawing some of the neighbouring cities to them by assisting

* This battle was fought the fourth year of the hundred and forty-second Olympiad, when Philopoemen was in the forty-fourth year.

them

them to expel their tyrants, while others voluntarily joined them for the sake of that unanimity which they beheld in so well-constituted a government; they conceived the great design of forming the Peloponnesus into one community. It is true, that while Aratus lived, they attended the motions of the Macedonians, and made their court first to Ptolemy, and afterwards to Antigonus and Philip, who all had a great share in the affairs of Greece. But when Philopoemen had taken upon him the administration, the Achaeans finding themselves respectable enough to oppose their strongest adversaries, ceased to call in foreign protectors. As for Aratus, not being so fit for conflicts in the field, he managed most of his affairs by address, by moderation, and by the friendships he had formed with foreign princes, as we have related in his life. But Philopoemen, being a great warrior, vigorous and bold, and successful withal in the first battles that he fought, raised the ambition of the Achaeans together with their power; for under him they were used to conquer.

In the first place he corrected the errors of the Achaeans in drawing up their forces, and in the make of their arms. For hitherto they had made use of bucklers which were easy to manage on account of their smallness, but too narrow to cover the body, and lances that were much shorter than the Macedonian pikes; for which reason they answered the end in fighting at a distance, but were of little use in close battle. As for the order of the battle, they had not been accustomed to draw up in a *spiral** form, but

* The Macedonian phalanx occasionally altered their form from the square to the *spiral* or orbicular, and sometimes to that of the *cuneus* or wedge.

Ταξις εἰς σπειραν might also be translated to draw up in platoons, the word σπειρα derived from σπᾶω, signifying a *Band* or *Platoon*. But then in the original it would rather have been σπειρας than σπειραν: besides, the context seems to determine it to the former signification. It was necessary for the phalanx to throw themselves into

but in the square battalion, which having neither a front of pikes, nor shields, fit to lock together, like that of the Macedonians, was easily penetrated and broken. Philopoemen altered both; persuading them, instead of the buckler and lance, to take the shield and pike, to arm their heads, bodies, thighs and legs, and, instead of a light and desultory manner of fighting, to adopt a close and firm one. After he had brought the youth to wear complete armour, and on that account to consider themselves as invincible, his next step was to reform them with respect to luxury and love of expence. He could not, indeed, entirely cure them of the distemper with which they had long been infected, a vanity of appearance, for they had vied with each other in fine clothes, in purple carpets, and in the rich service of their tables. But he began with diverting their love of show, from superfluous things to those that were useful and honourable, and soon prevailed with them to retrench their daily expence upon their persons, and to give into a magnificence in their arms and the whole equipage of war. The shops therefore were seen strewed with plate broken in pieces, while breast-plates were gilt with the gold, and shields and bridles studded with the silver. On the parade the young men were managing horses, or exercising their arms. The women were seen adorning helmets and crests with various colours, or embroidering military vests both for the cavalry and infantry. The very sight of these things inflaming their courage, and calling forth their vigour, made them venturous, and ready to face any danger. For much expence in other things that attract our eyes, tempts to luxury, and too often produces effeminacy; the feasting of the senses relaxing the vigour of the mind; but in this instance it strengthens and improves it. Thus Homer represents Achilles, at the sight of his new armour, exulting

into the *spiral* or orbicular form, whenever they were surrounded, in order that they might face and fight the enemy on every side.

with

with joy*, and burning with impatience to use it. When Philopoemen had persuaded the youth thus to arm and to adorn themselves, he mustered and trained them continually, and they entered with pride and pleasure into his exercise. For they were greatly delighted with the new form of the battalion, which was so cemented that it seemed impossible to break it. And their arms became easy and light in the wearing, because they were charmed with their richness and beauty, and they longed for nothing more than to use them against the enemy, and to try them in a real encounter.

At that time the Achaeans were at war with Machanidas the tyrant of Lacedaemon, who with a powerful army was watching his opportunity to subdue all Peloponnesus. As soon as news was brought that he was fallen upon the Mantineans, Philopoemen took the field, and marched against him. They drew up their armies near Mantinea, each having a good number of mercenaries in pay, beside the whole force of their respective cities. The engagement being begun, Machanidas with his foreign troops attacked and put to flight the spearmen and the Tarentines, who were placed in the Achaean front; but afterwards, instead of falling upon that part of the army who stood their ground, and breaking them, he went upon the † pursuit of the fugitives; and when he should have endeavoured to rout the main body of the Achaeans, left his own uncovered. Philopoemen,

* She drops the radiant burthen on the ground;
Clang the strong arms, and ring the shores around.
Back shrink the myrmidons with dread surprize,
And from the broad effulgence turn their eyes.
Unmoved, the hero kindles at the show,
And feels with rage divine his bosom glow;
From his fierce eye-balls living flames expire,
And flash incessant like a stream of fire.

Pope, II. 19th.

† See Polybius, Book the xith.

after

after so indifferent a beginning, made light of the misfortune, and represented it as no great matter, though the day seemed to be lost. But when he saw what an error the enemy committed, in quitting their foot, and going upon the pursuit, by which they left him a good opening, he did not try to stop them in their career after the fugitives, but suffered them to pass by. When the pursuers were got at a great distance, he rushed upon the Lacedaemonian infantry, now left unsupported by their right wing. Stretching, therefore, to the left, he took them in flank, destitute as they were of a general, and far from expecting to come to blows; for they thought Machanidas absolutely sure of victory, when they saw him upon the pursuit.

After he had routed this infantry with great slaughter (for it is said that four thousand Lacedaemonians were left dead upon the spot), he marched against Machanidas, who was now returning, with his mercenaries, from the pursuit. There was a broad and deep ditch between them, where both strove a while; the one to get over and fly, the other to hinder him. Their appearance was not like that of a combat between two generals, but between two wild beasts, (or rather between a hunter and a wild beast) whom necessity reduces to fight. Philopoemen was the great hunter. The tyrant's horse being strong and spirited, and violently spurred on both sides, ventured to leap into the ditch; and was raising his fore-feet in order to gain the opposite bank, when Simmias and Polyænus, who always fought by the side of Philopoemen, both rode up and levelled their spears against Machanidas. But Philopoemen prevented them; and perceiving that the horse, with his head high reared, covered the tyrant's body, he turned his own a little, and pushing his spear at him with all his force, tumbled him into the ditch. The Achæans, in admiration of this exploit and of his conduct in the whole action,

action, set up his statue in brass at Delphi, in the attitude in which he killed the tyrant.

It is reported, that at the Nemean Games, a little after he had gained the battle of Mantinea, Philopoemen (then chosen general the second time, and at leisure on account of that great festival) first caused his phalanx, in the best order and attire, to pass in review before the Greeks, and to make all the movements which the art of war teaches, with the utmost vigour and agility. After this, he entered the theatre, while the musicians were contending for the prize. He was attended by the youth in their military cloaks and scarlet vests. These young men were all well made, of the same age and stature, and though they shewed great respect for their general, yet they seemed not a little elated themselves with the many glorious battles they had fought. In the moment that they entered, Pylades the musician happened to be singing to his lyre the *Persæ* of Timotheus*, and was pronouncing this verse with which it begins,

The palm of liberty for Greece I won,

when the people, struck with the grandeur of the poetry sung by a voice equally excellent, from every part of the theatre turned their eyes upon Philopoemen, and welcomed him with the loudest plaudits. They caught in idea the ancient dignity of Greece, and in their present confidence aspired to the lofty spirit of former times.

As young horses require their accustomed riders, and are wild and unruly when mounted by strangers, so it was with the Achæans. When their forces were under any other commander, on every great emergency, they grew discontented, and looked about for Philopoemen; and if he did but make his appearance, they were soon satisfied again and fitted for action by the confidence which they placed in him;

* Timotheus was a Dythyrambic poet, who flourished about the ninety-fifth Olympiad, three hundred and ninety-eight years before the Christian æra.

well knowing that he was the only general whom their enemies durst not look in the face, and that they were ready to tremble at his very name.

Philip, king of Macedon, thinking he could easily bring the Achaeans under him again, if Philopoemen was out of the way, privately sent some persons to Argos to assassinate him. But this treachery was timely discovered, and brought upon Philip the hatred and contempt of all the Greeks. The Boeotians were besieging Megara, and hoped to be soon masters of the place, when, a report, though not a true one, being spread among them, that Philopoemen was approaching to the relief of the besieged, they left their scaling-ladders already planted against the walls, and took to flight. Nabis, who was tyrant of Lacedaemon after Machanidas, had taken Messene by surprize: Philopoemen, who was out of command, endeavoured to persuade Lyfippus, then general of the Achaeans, to succour the Messeneans; but not prevailing with him, because, he said, the enemy was within, and the place irrecoverably lost, he went himself, taking with him his own citizens, who waited neither for form of law nor commission, but followed him upon this natural principle, that he who excels should always command. When he was got pretty near, Nabis was informed of it; and not daring to wait, though his army lay quartered in the town, stole out at another gate with his troops, and marched off precipitately, thinking himself happy if he could escape. He did indeed escape, but Messene was rescued.

Thus far every thing is great in the character of Philopoemen. But as for his going a second time into Crete, at the request of the Gortynians, who were engaged in war, and wanted him for general, it has been blamed, either as an act of cowardice, in deserting his own country when she was distressed by Nabis, or as an unseasonable ambition to shew himself to strangers. And it is true, the Megalopolitans were

were then so hard pressed, that they were obliged to shut themselves up within their walls, and to sow corn in their very streets; the enemy having laid waste their lands, and encamped almost at their gates. Philopoemen, therefore, by entering into the service of the Cretans at such a time, and taking a command beyond sea, furnished his enemies with a pretence to accuse him of basely flying from the war at home.

Yet it is said, that as the Achaeans had chosen other generals, Philopoemen, being unemployed, bestowed his leisure upon the Gortynians, and took a command among them at their request. For he had an extreme aversion to idleness, and was desirous, above all things, to keep his talents, as a soldier and a general, in constant practice. This was clear from what he said of Ptolemy. Some were commending that prince for daily studying the art of war, and improving his strength by martial exercise; "Who," said he, "can praise a prince of his age, that is "always preparing, and never performs?"

The Megalopolitans, highly incensed at his absence, and looking upon it as a desertion, were inclined to pass an outlawry against him. But the Achaeans prevented them by sending their general Aristænetus* to Megalopolis, who, though he differed with Philopoemen about matters of government, would not suffer him to be declared an outlaw. Philopoemen, finding himself neglected by his citizens, drew off from them several of the neighbouring boroughs, and instructed them to allege that they were not comprized in their taxations, nor originally of their dependencies. By assisting them to maintain this pretext, he lessened the authority of Megalopolis in the general assembly of the Achaeans. But these things happened some time after.

Whilst he commanded the Gortynians in Crete, he did not, like a Peloponnesian or Arcadian, make war in

* Polybius and Livy call him Aristænetus.

an open, generous manner ; but adopting the Cretan customs, and using their artifices and sleights, their stratagems and ambushes, against themselves, he soon shewed them that their devices were like the short-sighted schemes of children, when compared with the long reach of an experienced general.

Having greatly distinguished himself by these means, and performed many exploits in that country, he returned to Peloponnesus with honour. Here he found Philip beaten by T. Q. Flaminius, and Nabis engaged in war both with the Romans and Achaeans. He was immediately chosen general of the Achaeans; but venturing to act at sea, he fell under the same misfortune with Epaminondas, he saw the great ideas, that had been formed of his courage and conduct, vanish, in consequence of his ill success in a naval engagement. Some say indeed that Epaminondas was unwilling that his countrymen should have any share of the advantages of the sea, lest of good soldiers (as Plato* expresses it) they should become licentious and dissolute sailors ; and therefore chose to return from Asia and the isles without effecting any thing. But Philopoemen being persuaded that his skill in the land service would insure his success at sea, found to his cost, how much experience contributes to victory, and how much practice adds in all things to our powers. For he was not only worsted in the sea-fight for want of skill ; but having fitted up an old ship which had been a famous vessel forty years before, and manned it with his townsmen, it proved so leaky that they were in danger of being lost. Finding that, after this, the enemy despised him as a man who disclaimed all pretensions at sea, and that they had insolently laid siege to Gythium, he set sail again ; and as they did not expect him, but were

* This observation occurs in Plato's fourth book *De legibus* ; and from this passage of Plutarch it appears, that there, instead of *πομπαι* we should read *πομπων*. Indeed, the ancient Greek is not properly expressed, and there are now no types for it.

dispersed without any precaution by reason of their late victory, he landed in the night, burnt their camp, and killed a great number of them.

A few days after, as he was marching through a difficult pass, Nabis came suddenly upon him. The Achaeans were in great terror, thinking it impossible to escape out of so dangerous a passage, which the enemy had already seized. But Philopoemen, making a little halt, and seeing, at once, the nature of the ground, shewed, that skill in drawing up an army is the capital point in the art of war. For altering a little the disposition of his forces, and adapting it to the present occasion, without any bustle he easily disengaged them from the difficulty; and then falling upon the enemy, put them entirely to the rout. When he saw that they fled not to the town, but dispersed themselves about the country; as the ground was woody and uneven, and on account of the brooks and ditches impracticable for the horse, he did not go upon the pursuit, but encamped before the evening. Concluding, however, that the fugitives would return as soon as it grew dark, and draw up in a straggling manner to the city, he placed in ambush by the brooks and hills that surrounded it many parties of the Achaeans with their swords in their hands. By this means the greatest part of the troops of Nabis were cut off: For, not returning in a body, but as the chance of flight had dispersed them, they fell into their enemies' hands, and were caught like so many birds, ere they could enter the town.

Philopoemen being received on this account with great honour and applause in all the theatres of Greece, it gave some umbrage to Flaminius, a man naturally ambitious. For, as a Roman consul, he thought himself entitled to much greater marks of distinction among the Achaeans, than a man of Arcadia; and that, as a public benefactor, he was infinitely above him; having by one proclamation set free all that part of Greece, which had been enslaved by

Philip

Philip and the Macedonians*. After this, Flaminius made peace with Nabis; and Nabis was assassinated by the Ætolians. Hereupon, Sparta being in great confusion, Philopoemen, seizing the opportunity, came upon it with his army, and partly by force, partly by persuasion, brought that city to join in the Achaean league. The gaining over a city of such dignity and power made him perfectly adored among the Achaeans. And, indeed, Sparta was an acquisition of vast importance to Achaia, of which she was now become a member. It was also a grateful service to the principal Lacedaemonians, who hoped now to have him for the guardian of their liberty. For which reason, having sold the house and goods of Nabis, by a public decree they gave the money, which amounted to an hundred and twenty talents, to Philopoemen, and determined to send it by persons deputed from their body.

On this occasion it appeared how clear his integrity was; that he not only seemed, but *was* a virtuous man. For not one of the Spartans chose to speak to a person of his character about a present; but, afraid of the office, they all excused themselves, and put it upon Timolaus, to whom he was bound by the rights of hospitality. Timolaus went to Megalopolis, and was entertained at Philopoemen's house; but when he observed the gravity of his discourse, the simplicity of his diet, and the integrity of his manners quite impregnable to the attacks and deceits of money, he said not a word about the present, but having assigned another cause for his coming, returned home. He was sent a second time, but could not mention the money. In a third visit he brought it out with much difficulty, and declared the benevolence of Sparta to him. Philopoemen heard with pleasure what he had to say, but immediately went himself to the people of Lacedaemon, and advised them not to try to tempt

* Dacier reads *Lacedaemonians*, but does not mention his authority.

good men with money, who were already their friends, and of whose virtues they might freely avail themselves; but to buy and corrupt ill men who opposed their measures in council, that thus silenced, they might give them the less trouble; it being much better to stop the mouths of their enemies, than of their friends. Such was Philopoemen's contempt of money.

Some time after, Diophanes, being general of the Achaeans, and hearing that the Lacedaemonians had thoughts of withdrawing from the league, determined to chastise them. Meanwhile they prepared for war, and raised great commotions in Peloponnesus. Philopoemen tried to appease Diophanes and keep him quiet; representing to him, "that while "Antiochus* and the Romans were contending in "the heart of Greece with two such powerful armies, "an Achaean general should turn his attention to "them; and, instead of lighting up a war at "home, should overlook and pass by some real injuries." When he found that Diophanes did not hearken to him, but marched along with Flaminius into Laconia, and that they took their route towards Sparta, he did a thing which cannot be vindicated by law and strict justice, but which discovers a great and noble daring. He got into the town himself, and, though but a private man, shut the gates against an Achaean general and Roman consul; healed the divisions among the Lacedaemonians, and brought them back to the league.

Yet, afterwards, when he was general himself, upon some new subject of complaint against that people, he restored their exiles, and put eighty citizens to death, as Polybius tells us, or, according to Aristocrates, three hundred and fifty. He demolished their walls, took from them great part of their territory, and added it to that of Megalopolis. All who had

* This same year, Caius Livius with the Roman fleet defeated that of Antiochus near Ephesus.

been made free of Sparta by the tyrants, he disfranchised, and carried into Achaia; except three thousand who refused to quit the place, and those he sold for slaves. By way of insult, as it were, upon Sparta, with the money arising thence he built a portico in Megalopolis. Pursuing his vengeance against that unhappy people who had already suffered more than they deserved, he added one cruel and most unjust thing to fill up the measure of it: he destroyed their constitution. He abolished the discipline of Lycurgus, compelled them to give their children and youth an Achaean education, instead of that of their own country; being persuaded that their spirit could never be humbled, while they adhered to the institutions of their great lawgiver. Thus brought, by the weight of their calamities, to have the sinews of their city cut by Philopoemen, they grew tame and submissive. Some time after, indeed, upon application to the Romans, they shook off the Achaean customs, and re-established their ancient ones, as far as it could be done, after so much misery and corruption.

When the Romans were carrying on the war with Antiochus in Greece, Philopoemen was in a private station. And when he saw Antiochus sit still at Chalcis, and spend his time in youthful love and a marriage unsuitable to his years, while the Syrians roamed from town to town without discipline and without officers, and minded nothing but their pleasures, he repined extremely that he was not then general of the Achaeans, and scrupled not to declare, that he envied the Romans their victory; "For had I been in command," said he, "I would have cut them all in pieces in the taverns." After Antiochus was overcome, the Romans pressed still harder upon Greece, and hemmed in the Achaeans with their power, while the orators too were inclined to their interest. Under the auspices of heaven, their strength prevailed over all; and the point was at hand, where fortune, who had long veered, was to stand still. In

these circumstances, Philopoemen, like a good pilot, struggled with the waves. Sometimes he was forced to give way a little and yield to the times, but on most occasions maintaining the conflict, he endeavoured to draw all that were considerable either for their eloquence or riches, to the side of liberty. Aristaenus the Megalopolitan, who had great interest among the Achaeans, but always courted the Romans, declared it in council as his opinion, "That they ought not to be opposed or disobliged in any thing." Philopoemen heard him with silent indignation; and at last, when he could refrain no longer, said to him: "And why in such haste, wretched man, to see an end of Greece?" Manius*, the Roman consul, after the defeat of Antiochus, moved the Achaeans to permit the Lacedaemonian exiles to return, and Titus seconded him in his application; but Philopoemen opposed it, not out of any ill-will to the exiles, but because he was willing they should be indebted for that benefit to himself and the Achaeans, and not to the favour of Titus and the Romans. For the next year, when he was general himself, he restored them. Thus his gallant spirit led him to contend with the prevailing powers.

He was elected general of the Achaeans, the eighth time, when seventy years of age; and now he hoped not only to pass the year of his magistracy without war, but the remainder of his life in quiet. For as the force of distempers abates with the strength of the body, so in the states of Greece the spirit of contention failed with their power. Some avenging deity, however, threw him down at last, like one who with matchless speed runs over the race and stumbles at the goal. It seems, that being in company where a certain general was mentioned as an extraordinary man, Philopoemen said, "There was no great account to be made of a man who suffered

* Manius Acilius Glabrio.

" himself

“himself to be taken alive.” A few days after this, Dinocrates the Messenian, who was particularly on ill terms with Philopoemen, and, indeed, not upon good ones with any person, by reason of his profligate and wicked life, found means to draw Messene off from the league; and it was also said that he was going to seize a little place called *Colonis**. Philopoemen was then at Argos, sick of a fever; but upon this news he pushed to Megalopolis, and reached it in one day, though it was at the distance of four hundred furlongs. From thence he presently drew out a body of horse, consisting of the nobility, but all young men, who, from affection to his person and ambition for glory, followed him as volunteers. With these he marched towards Messene, and meeting Dinocrates on Evander’s hill†, he attacked and put him to flight. But five hundred men, who guarded the flat country, suddenly coming up, the others, who were routed, seeing them, rallied again about the hills. Hereupon, Philopoemen, afraid of being surrounded, and desirous of saving his young cavalry, retreated upon rough and difficult ground, while he was in the rear, often turning upon the enemy, and endeavouring to draw them entirely upon himself. Yet none of them dared to encounter him; they only shouted and rode about him at a distance. As he often faced about, and left his main body, on account of his young men, each of whom he was solicitous to put out of danger, at last he found himself alone amidst a number of the enemy. Even then they durst not attack him hand to hand, but, hurling their darts at a distance, they drove him upon steep and craggy places, where he could scarcely make

* There is no such place known as *Colonis*. Livy (*Lib.* 39.) calls it *Corone*; and Plutarch probably wrote *Corona* or *Coronis*. Strabo mentions the latter as a place in the neighbourhood of Messene.

† *Evander’s hill* is likewise unknown. Polybius, and after him Pausanias, mention a hill called *Evan* (which name it probably had from the cries of the Bacchanals), not far from Messene.

his horse go, though he spurred him continually. He was still active through exercise, and for that reason his age was no hindrance to his escape; but being weakened by sickness, and extremely fatigued with his journey, his horse threw him, now heavy and encumbered, upon the stones. His head was wounded with the fall, and he lay a long time speechless, so that the enemy, thinking him dead, began to turn him, in order to strip him of his arms. But finding that he raised his head and opened his eyes, they gathered thick about him, bound his hands behind his back, and led him off with such unworthy treatment and gross abuse, as Philopoemen could never have supposed he should come to suffer even from Dinocrates.

The Messenians, elated at the news, flocked to the gates. But when they saw Philopoemen dragged along in a manner so unworthy of the glory of his achievements and trophies, most of them were touched with pity and compassion for his misfortune. They shed tears, and contemned all human greatness as a faithless support, as vanity and nothing. Their tears by little and little turned to kind words, and they began to say, they ought to remember his former benefits, and the liberty he had procured them by expelling the tyrant Nabis. A few there were indeed, who, to gratify Dinocrates, talked of putting Philopoemen to torture and to death, as a dangerous and implacable enemy, and the more to be dreaded by Dinocrates, if he escaped after being made prisoner, and treated with such indignity. At last they put him in a dungeon called the *Treasury**, which had neither air nor light from without, and which having no doors was closed with a great stone. In this dungeon they shut him up with the stone, and placed a guard around it,

* The public treasure was kept there; and it was shut up with an immense stone, moved to it by an engine. LIV. Lib. xxxix.

Meanwhile, the Achaean cavalry recollecting themselves after their flight, found that Philopoemen was not with them, and probably had lost his life. They made a stand, and called him with loud cries, blaming each other for making a base and shameful escape, by abandoning their general, who had been prodigal of his own life in order to save theirs. By much search and enquiry about the country, they got intelligence that he was taken prisoner, and carried the heavy news to the states of Achaia: who considering it as the greatest of losses, resolved to send an embassy to demand him of the Messenians; and in the mean time prepared for war.

While the Achaeans were taking these resolutions, Dinocrates, who most of all dreaded time, as the thing most likely to save Philopoemen, determined to be before-hand with the league. Therefore, when night was come, and the multitude retired, he opened the dungeon, and sent in one of his servants with a dose of poison, and orders not to leave him till he had taken it. Philopoemen was laid down in his cloak, but not asleep: Vexation and resentment kept him awake. When he saw the light, and the man standing by him with the cup of poison, he raised himself up as well as his weakness would permit; and, receiving the cup, asked him, "Whether he had heard any thing of his cavalry, and particularly of Lycortas?" The executioner answering that they almost all escaped, he nodded his head in sign of satisfaction; and looking kindly upon him, said, "Thou bringest good tidings, and we are not in all respects unhappy." Without uttering another word, or breathing the least sigh, he drank off the poison, and laid down again. He was already brought so low that he could not make much struggle with the fatal dose, and it dispatched him presently.

The news of his death filled all Achaia with grief and lamentation. All the youth immediately repaired with the deputies of the several cities to Megalopolis,

galopolis, where they resolved without loss of time to take their revenge. For this purpose, having chosen Lycortas* for their general, they entered Messenia, and ravaged the country, till the Messenians with one consent opened the gates and received them. Dinocrates prevented their revenge by killing himself: and those that voted for having Philopoemen put to death, followed his example †. But such as were for having him put to the torture, were taken by Lycortas, and reserved for more painful punishments.

When they had burnt his remains, they put the ashes in an urn, and returned, not in a disorderly and promiscuous manner, but uniting a kind of triumphal march with the funeral solemnity. First came the foot with crowns of victory on their heads, and tears in their eyes; and attended by their captive enemies in fetters. Polybius, the general's son, with the principal Achaeans about him, carried the urn, which was so adorned with ribbons and garlands, that it was hardly visible. The march was closed by the cavalry completely armed and superbly mounted: they neither expressed in their looks the melancholy of such a mourning, nor the joy of a victory. The people of the towns and villages on the way, flocked out, as if it had been to meet him returning from a glorious campaign, touched the urn with great respect, and conducted it to Megalopolis. The old men, the women and children, who joined the procession, raised such a bitter lamentation, that it spread through the army, and was re-echoed by the city, which, besides her grief for Philopoemen, bemoaned

* This was in the second year of the hundred and forty-ninth Olympiad. Lycortas was father to Polybius the historian, who was in the action, and might be then about twenty years of age.

† Τῆτες ἐκ' αἰκίας ποινῆς συνελαμβάνη ὁ Αὐκορτάς. He intended to have them beaten with rods before they were put to death.

her own calamity, as in him she thought she lost the chief rank and influence among the Achaeans.

His interment was suitable to his dignity, and the Messenian prisoners were stoned to death at his tomb. Many statues were set up*, and many honours decreed him by the Grecian cities. But when Greece was involved in the dreadful misfortune of Corinth, a certain Roman† attempted to get them all pulled down, accusing him in form, as if he had been alive, of implacable enmity to the Romans. When he had finished the impeachment, and Polybius had answered his calumnies, neither Mummius nor his lieutenants would suffer the monuments of so illustrious a man to be defaced, though he had opposed both Flaminius and Glabrio not a little. For they made a proper distinction between virtue and interest, between honour and advantage; well concluding that rewards and grateful acknowledgments are always due from persons obliged to their benefactors, and honour and respect from men of merit to each other. So much concerning Philopoemen.

* Pausanias in his *Arcadic*, gives us the inscription the Tegeans put upon one of those statues.

† This happened thirty-seven years after his death, that is, the second year of the hundred and forty-eighth Olympiad, one hundred and forty-five years before the Christian æra.

TITUS QUINCTIUS FLAMINIUS.

THE person whom we put in parallel with Philopoemen, is Titus Quinctius Flaminius *. Those who are desirous of being acquainted with his countenance and figure, need but look upon the statue in brass, which is erected at Rome, with a Greek inscription upon it, opposite the *Circus Maximus*, near the great statue of Apollo, which was brought from Carthage. As to his disposition, he was quick both to resent an injury, and to do a service. But his resentment was not in all respects like his affection, for he punished lightly, and soon forgot the offence; but his attachments and services were lasting and complete. For the persons whom he had obliged, he ever retained a kind regard, as if, instead of receiving, they had conferred a favour;

* It ought to be written *Flamininus*, and not *Flaminius*. Polybius, Livy, and all the other historians write it *Flamininus*. Indeed, the *Flaminii* were a very different family from the *Flamininii*. The former were Patricians, the latter Plebeians. Caius Flaminius, who was killed in the battle at the lake of Thrasymenus, was of the Plebeian family. Besides, some manuscripts, for instance the Vulcob. an Anon. and one that Dacier consulted, have it *Flamininus*: which would be sufficient authority to correct it. But that would occasion some inconvenience, because Plutarch has called him *Flaminius* in other places, as well as here in his life; and indeed several modern writers have done the same.

and,

and, considering them as his greatest treasure, he was always ready to protect and to promote them. Naturally covetous of honour and fame, and not chusing to let others have any share in his great and good actions, he took more pleasure in those whom he could assist, than in those who could give him assistance; looking upon the former as persons who afforded room for the exertion of virtue, and the latter as his rivals in glory.

From his youth he was trained up to the profession of arms. For, Rome having then many important wars upon her hands, her youth betook themselves betimes to arms, and had early opportunities to qualify themselves to command. Flaminius served like the rest, and was first a legionary tribune * under the consul Marcellus, in the war with Hannibal. Marcellus fell into an ambuscade, and was slain; after which Flaminius was appointed governor of Tarentum, newly retaken, and of the country about it. In this commission he grew no less famous for his administration of justice than for his military skill; for which reason he was appointed chief director of the two colonies that were sent to the cities of Narnia and Cosa.

This inspired him with such lofty thoughts, that overlooking the ordinary previous steps by which young men ascend, I mean the offices of Tribune, Praetor, and Aedile, he aimed directly at the consulship. Supported by those colonists, he presented himself as a candidate. But the tribunes Fulvius and Manlius opposed him, insisting that it was a strange and unheard-of thing, for a man so young, who was not yet initiated in the first mysteries of government, to intrude, in contempt of the laws,

* He was appointed a tribune at the age of twenty, in the fourth year of the hundred and forty second Olympiad. Consequently he was born the first year of the hundred and thirty-eighth Olympiad, which was the year of Rome 526. Livy tells us, he was thirty-three years of age, when he proclaimed liberty to Greece.

into

into the highest office in the state. The senate referred the affair to the suffrages of the people; and the people elected him consul, though he was not yet thirty years old, with Sextus Ælius. The lots being cast for the provinces, the war with Philip and the Macedonians fell to Flaminius: and this happened very fortunately for the Roman people; as that department required a general, who did not want to do every thing by force and violence, but rather by gentleness and persuasion. For Macedonia furnished Philip with a sufficient number of men for his wars, but Greece was his principal dependance for a war of any length. She it was that supplied him with money and provisions, with strong holds and places of retreat, and, in a word, with all the materials of war. So that if she could not be disengaged from Philip, the war with him could not be decided by a single battle. Besides, the Greeks as yet had but little acquaintance with the Romans; it was now first to be established by the intercourse of business: and therefore, they would not so soon have embraced a foreign authority, instead of that they had been accustomed to, if the Roman general had not been a man of great good-nature, who was more ready to avail himself of treaty than of the sword, who had a persuasive manner where he applied, and was affable and easy of access when applied to, and who had a constant and invariable regard to justice. But this will better appear from his actions themselves.

Titus finding that Sulpitius and Publius*, his predecessors in command, had not entered Macedonia till late in the season, and then did not prosecute the war with vigour, but spent their time in skirmishing to gain some particular post or pass, or to intercept some provisions, determined not to act like

* Publius Sulpitius Galba was consul two years before. Publius Villius Tappulus was consul the year after Sulpitius, and next before Flaminius.

them. They had wasted the year of their consulate in the enjoyment of their new honours and in the administration of domestic affairs, and towards the close of the year they repaired to their province; by which artifice they got their command continued another year, being the first year in character of consul, and the second of proconsul. But Titus, ambitious to distinguish his consulship by some important expedition, left the honours and prerogatives he had in Rome: and having requested the senate to permit his brother Lucius to command the naval forces, and selected three thousand men, as yet in full vigour and spirits *, and the glory of the field, from those troops, who under Scipio had subdued Asdrubal in Spain, and Hannibal in Africa, he crossed the sea, and got safe into Epirus. There he found Publius encamped over against Philip, who had been a long time defending the fords of the river Apfus and the adjoining straits; and that Publius had not been able to effect any thing, by reason of the natural strength of the place.

Titus having taken the command of the army, and sent Publius home, set himself to consider the nature of the country. Its natural fortifications are equal to those of Tempe; but it is not like Tempe, in the beauty of the woods and groves, and the verdure of valleys and delicious meads. To the right and left there is a chain of lofty mountains, between which there is a deep and long channel. Down this runs the river Apfus, like the Peneus both in its appearance and rapidity. It covers the foot of the hills on each side, so that there is left only a narrow craggy path, cut out close by the stream, which is not easy for any army to pass at any time, and, when guarded, is not passable at all.

There were some, therefore, who advised Flaminus to take a compass through Dassaretis along the Lycus, which was an easy passage. But he was

* *Ὡςτις στομῶμα*—as the edge of the weapon.

afraid that if he removed too far from the sea, into a country that was barren and little cultivated, while Philip avoided a battle, he might come to want provisions, and be constrained, like the general before him, to retreat to the sea, without effecting any thing. This determined him to make his way up the mountains, sword-in-hand, and to force a passage. But Philip's army being possessed of the heights, showered down their darts and arrows upon the Romans from every quarter. Several sharp contests ensued, in which many were killed and wounded on both sides, but none that were likely to be decisive.

In the mean time, some shepherds of those mountains came to the consul with the discovery of a winding way, neglected by the enemy, by which they promised to bring his army to the top in three days at the farthest. And to confirm the truth of what they said, they brought Charops the son of Machatas, prince of the Epirots; who was a friend to the Romans, and privately assisted them out of fear of Philip. As Flaminius could confide in him, he sent away a tribune with four thousand foot and three hundred horse. The shepherds in bonds led the way. In the day-time they lay still in the hollows of the woods, and in the night they marched; for the moon was then at full. Flaminius having detached this party, let his main body rest the three days, and only had some slight skirmishes with the enemy to take up their attention. But the day that he expected those who had taken the circuit, to appear upon the heights, he drew out his forces early, both the heavy and light armed, and dividing them into three parts, himself led the van; marching his men along the narrowest path by the side of the river. The Macedonians galled him with their darts; but he maintained the combat notwithstanding the disadvantage of ground; and the other two parties fought with all the spirit of emulation, and clung to the rocks with astonishing ardour.

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In the mean time the sun arose, and a smook appeared at a distance, not very strong, but like the mist of the hills. Being on the back of the enemy, they did not observe it, for it came from the troops who had reached the top. Amidst the fatigue of the engagement the Romans were in doubt whether it was a signal or not, but they inclined to believe it the thing they wished. And when they saw it increase, so as to darken the air, and to mount higher and higher, they were well assured that it came from the fires which their friends had lighted. Hereupon they set up loud shouts, and charging the enemy with greater vigour, pushed them into the most craggy places. The shouts were re-echoed by those behind at the top of the mountain. And now the Macedonians fled with the utmost precipitation. Yet there were not above two thousand slain, the pursuit being impeded by the difficulty of the ascent. The Romans, however, pillaged the camp, seized the money and slaves, and became absolute masters of the pass.

They then traversed all Epirus, but with such order and discipline, that, though they were at a great distance from their ships and the sea, and had not the usual monthly allowance of corn, or convenience of markets, yet they spared the country, which at the same time abounded in every thing. For Flaminius was informed that Philip, in his passage or rather flight through Thessaly, had compelled the people to quit their habitations, and retire to the mountains, had burnt the towns, and had given as plunder to his men what was too heavy or cumbersome to be carried off; and so had in a manner yielded up the country to the Romans. The consul, therefore, made a point to prevail with his men to spare it as their own, and march through it as land already ceded to them.

The event soon shewed the benefit of this good order. For as soon as they entered Thessaly, all its cities declared for them; and the Greeks within Ther-

mopylae longed for the protection of Flaminius, and gave up their hearts to him. The Achaeans renounced their alliance with Philip, and by a solemn decree resolved to take part with the Romans against him. And though the Ætolians, who at that time were strongly attached to the Romans, made the Opuntians an offer to garrison and defend their city, they refused it; and having sent for Flaminius, put themselves in his hands.

It is reported of Pyrrhus, when from an eminence he had first a prospect of the disposition of the Roman army, that he said, "I see nothing barbarian-like in the ranks of these barbarians." Indeed, all, who once saw Flaminius, spoke of him in the same terms. They had heard the Macedonians represent him as the fierce commander of a host of barbarians, who was come to ruin and destroy, and to reduce all to slavery: and, when afterwards they met a young man of a mild aspect, who spoke very good Greek, and was a lover of true honour, they were extremely taken with him, and excited the kind regards of their cities to him, as to a general who would lead them to liberty.

After this, Philip seeming inclined to treat, Flaminius came to an interview * with him, and offered him peace and friendship with Rome, on condition that he left the Grecians free, and withdrew his garrisons from their cities. And as he refused those terms, it was obvious even to the partisans of Philip, that the Romans were not come to fight against the Greeks, but for Greece against the Macedonians.

The rest of Greece acceding voluntarily to the confederacy, the consul entered Boeotia, but in a peaceable manner, and the chief of the Thebans came to meet him. They were inclined to the Macedonian interest on account of Brachyllas, but they honoured and respected Flaminius, and were willing

* See Polybius, Book the XVII.

to preserve the friendship of both. Flaminius received them with great goodness, embraced them, and went on slowly with them, asking various questions, and entertaining them with discourse, on purpose to give his soldiers time to come up. Thus advancing insensibly to the gates of Thebes, he entered the city with them. They did not indeed quite relish the thing, but they were afraid to forbid him, as he came so well attended. Then, as if he had been in no-wise master of the town, he endeavoured by persuasion to bring it to declare for the Romans; King Attalus seconding him, and using all his rhetoric to the Thebans. But that prince, it seems, in his eagerness to serve Flaminius, exerting himself more than his age could bear, was seized, as he was speaking, with a giddiness or rheum which made him swoon away. A few days after, his fleet conveyed him into Asia, and he died there. As for the Boeotians, they took part with the Romans.

As Philip sent an embassy to Rome, Flaminius also sent his agents to procure a decree of the senate prolonging his commission if the war continued, or else empowering him to make peace. For his ambition made him apprehensive, that if a successor were sent, he should be robbed of all the honour of the war. His friends managed matters so well for him, that Philip failed in his application, and the command was continued to Flaminius. Having received the decree, he was greatly elevated in his hopes, and marched immediately into Thessaly to carry on the war against Philip. His army consisted of more than twenty-six thousand men, of whom the Ætolians furnished six thousand foot and three hundred horse. Philip's forces were not inferior in number. They marched against each other, and arrived near Scotusa, where they proposed to decide the affair with the sword. The vicinity of two such armies had not the usual effect, to strike the officers with a

mutual awe; on the contrary, it increased their courage and ardour; the Romans being ambitious to conquer the Macedonians, whose valour and power Alexander had rendered so famous, and the Macedonians hoping, if they could beat the Romans, whom they looked upon as a more respectable enemy than the Persians, to raise the glory of Philip above that of Alexander. Flaminius, therefore, exhorted his men to behave with the greatest courage and gallantry, as they had to contend with brave adversaries in so glorious a theatre as Greece. On the other side, Philip, in order to address his army, ascended an eminence without his camp, which happened to be a burying-place, either not knowing it to be so, or in the hurry not attending to it. There he began an oration such as is usual before a battle; but the omen of a sepulchre spreading a dismal melancholy among the troops, he stopped, and put off the action till another day.

Next morning at day-break, after a rainy night, the clouds turning into a mist, darkened the plain; and, as the day came on, a foggy thick air descending from the hills, covered all the ground between the two camps. Those, therefore, that were sent out on both sides, to seize posts or to make discoveries, soon meeting unawares, engaged at the *Cynoscephalae*, which are sharp tops of hills standing opposite each other, and so called from their resemblance to the heads of dogs. The success of these skirmishes was various, by reason of the unevenness of the ground, the same parties sometimes flying and sometimes pursuing; and reinforcements were sent on both sides, as they found their men hard pressed and giving way; till at length, the day clearing up, the action became general. Philip, who was in the right wing, advanced from the rising ground with his whole phalanx against the Romans, who could not, even the bravest of them, stand the shock of the united shields

shields and the projected spears *. But the Macedonian † left wing being separated and intersected by the hills, Flaminius observing that, and having no hopes on the side where his troops gave way, hastened to the other, and there charged the enemy, where, on account of the inequality and roughness of the country, they could not keep in the close form of a phalanx, nor line their ranks to any great depth, but were forced to fight man to man, in heavy and unwieldy armour. For the Macedonian phalanx is like an animal of enormous strength, while it keeps in one body, and preserves its union of locked shields: but when that is broken, each particular soldier loses of his force, as well because of the form of his armour, as because the strength of each consists rather in his being a part of the whole, than in his single person. When these were routed, some gave chase to the fugitives; others took those Macedonians in flank who were still fighting; the slaughter was great, and the wing, lately victorious, soon broken in such a manner, that they threw down their arms and fled. There were no less than eight thousand slain, and about five thousand were taken prisoners. That Philip himself escaped, was chiefly owing to the Ætolians, who took to plundering the camp, while the Romans were busied in the pursuit, so that at their retreat there was nothing left for them.

This from the first occasioned quarrels and mutual reproaches. But afterwards Flaminius was hurt much more sensibly, when the Ætolians ‡ ascribed the victory to themselves, and endeavoured to pre-
possess

* The pike of the fifth man in file projected beyond the front. There was, therefore, an amazing strength in the phalanx, whilst it stood firm. But it had its inconveniencies. It could not act at all except in a level and clear field. POLYB. lib. xvii. sub fin.

† Plutarch makes no mention of the elephants; which, according to Livy and Polybius, were very serviceable to Flaminius.

‡ Polybius informs us, that the Macedonians in the first encounter had the advantage, and beat the Romans from the tops of the mountains they had gained. And he affirms, that in all probability

possess the Greeks that the fact was really so. This report got such ground, that the poets and others, in the verses that were composed and sung on the occasion, put them before the Romans. The verses most in vogue were the following :

*Stranger ! unwept, unhonour'd with a grave,
See thrice ten thousand bodies of the brave !
The fierce Ætolians, and the Latian power
Led by Flaminius, rul'd the vengeful hour :
Emathia's scourge beneath whose stroke they bled,
And swifter than the roe, the mighty Philip fled.*

Alcaeus wrote this epigram in ridicule of Philip, and purposely misrepresented the number of the slain. The epigram was indeed in every body's mouth, but Flaminius was much more hurt by it than Philip : for the latter parodied Alcaeus, as follows :

*Stranger, unlev'd, unhonour'd e'en with bark,
See this sad tree, the gibbet of Alcaeus !*

Flaminius, who was ambitious of the praise of Greece, was not a little provoked at this ; and therefore managed every thing afterwards by himself, paying very little regard to the Ætolians. They in their turn indulged their resentment ; and, when Flaminius had admitted proposals for an accommodation, and received an embassy for that purpose from Philip, the Ætolians exclaimed in all the cities of Greece, that he sold the peace to the Macedonian, at a time when he might have put a final period to the war, and have destroyed that empire which first enslaved the Grecians. These speeches, though groundless, greatly perplexed the allies ; but Philip coming in person to treat, and submitting himself and his kingdom to the discretion of Flaminius and the Romans, removed all suspicion.

Thus Flaminius put an end to the war. He restored to Philip his kingdom, but obliged him to quit all claim to Greece : he fined him a thousand talents ; took away all his ships except ten ; and sent Demetrius the Romans would have been put to flight, had they not been supported by the Ætolian cavalry.

trius,

trius, one of his sons, hostage to Rome. In this pacification, he made a happy use of the present, and wisely provided for the time to come. For Hannibal the Carthaginian, an inveterate enemy to the Romans, and now an exile, being at the court * of Antiochus, exhorted him to meet fortune who opened her arms to him; and Antiochus himself seeing his power very considerable, and that his exploits had already gained him the title of "the Great," began now to think of universal monarchy, and particularly of setting himself against the Romans. Had not Flaminius, therefore, in his great wisdom foreseen this, and made peace †, Antiochus might have joined Philip in the war with Greece, and those two kings, then the most powerful in the world, have made a common cause of it; which would have called Rome again to as great conflicts and dangers as she had experienced in the war with Hannibal. But Flaminius, by thus putting an intermediate space of peace between the two wars, and finishing the one before the other began, cut off at once the last hope of Philip, and the first of Antiochus.

The ten commissioners now sent by the senate to assist Flaminius, advised him to set the rest of Greece free, but to keep garrisons in the cities of Corinth, Chalcis, and Demetrias, to secure them in case of a war with Antiochus. But the Ætolians, always severe in their accusations, and now more so than ever, endeavoured to excite a spirit of insurrection in the cities, calling upon Flaminius to knock off the shackles of Greece; for so Philip used to term those

* This is a mistake. Hannibal did not come to the court of Antiochus till the year after Flaminius had proclaimed liberty to Greece at the Isthmian games; Cato and Valerius Flaccus, who were then consuls, having sent an embassy to Carthage, to complain of him.

† Polybius tells us, Flaminius was induced to conclude a peace upon the intelligence he had received, that Antiochus was marching towards Greece with a powerful army; and he was afraid Philip might lay hold on that advantage to continue the war.

cities. They asked the Greeks, " If they did not
 " find their chain very comfortable, now it was more
 " polished, though heavier than before ; and if they
 " did not consider Flaminius as the greatest of bene-
 " factors, for unfettering their feet, and binding
 " them by the neck." Flaminius, afflicted at these
 clamours, begged of the council of deputies, and at
 last prevailed with them to deliver those cities from
 the garrisons, in order that his favour to the Gre-
 cians might be perfect and entire.

They were then celebrating the Isthmian-games,
 and an innumerable company was seated to see the
 exercises. For Greece now enjoying full peace after
 a length of wars, and big with the expectation of
 liberty, had given into these festivities on that occa-
 sion. Silence being commanded by sound of trum-
 pet, an herald went forth and made proclamation,
 " that the Roman senate, and Titus Quinctius Fla-
 " minius, the general and proconsul, having van-
 " quished king Philip and the Macedonians, took off
 " all impositions, and withdrew all garrisons from
 " Greece, and restored liberty and their own laws
 " and privileges to the Corinthians; Locrians, Pho-
 " cians, Euboeans, Achaeans, Phthiotae, Magnesians,
 " Thessalians, and Perrhaebians."

At first the proclamation was not generally or
 distinctly heard, but a confused murmur ran through
 the theatre ; some wondering, some questioning, and
 others calling upon the herald to repeat what he had
 said. Silence being again commanded, the herald
 raised his voice, so as to be heard clearly by the
 whole assembly. The shout which they gave in the
 transport of joy, was so prodigious, that it was
 heard as far as the sea. The people left their seats ;
 there was no farther regard paid to the diversions ; all
 hastened to embrace and to address the preserver and
 protector of Greece. The hyperbolical accounts
 that have often been given of the effect of loud
 shouts, were verified on that occasion ; for the crows
 which

which then happened to be flying over their heads, fell into the theatre. The breaking of the air seems to have been the cause. For the sound of many united voices being violently strong, the parts of the air are separated by it, and a void is left, which affords the birds no support. Or perhaps the force of the sound strikes the birds like an arrow, and kills them in an instant. Or possibly a circular motion is caused in the air, as a whirlpool is produced in the sea by the agitations of a storm.

If Flaminius, as soon as he saw the assembly risen, and the crowd rushing towards him, had not avoided them, and got under covert, he must have been surrounded, and in all probability suffocated, by such a multitude. When they had almost spent themselves in acclamations about his pavilion, and night was now come, they retired; and whatever friends or fellow-citizens they happened to see, they embraced and caressed again, and then went and concluded the evening together in feasting and merriment. There, no doubt, redoubling their joy, they began to recollect and talk of the state of Greece: they observed, "that notwithstanding the many great wars she had
"been engaged in for liberty, she had never gained
"a more secure or agreeable enjoyment of it, than
"now when others had fought for her; that glorious
"and important prize now hardly costing them a
"drop of blood, or a tear. That, of human excellencies, valour and prudence, were but rarely
"met with, and that justice was still more uncommon. That such generals as Agesilaus, Lyfander,
"Nicias, and Alcibiades, knew how to manage a
"war, and to gain victories both by sea and land;
"but they knew not how to apply their success to
"generous and noble purposes. So that if one excepted the battles of Marathon, of Salamis, Plataeae and Thermopylae, and the actions of Cimon
"upon the Eurymedon, and near Cyprus; Greece
"had fought to no other purpose but to bring theyoke
"upon

“ upon herself ; all the trophies she had erected were
 “ monuments of her dishonour, and at last her af-
 “ fairs were ruined by the unjust ambition of her
 “ chiefs. But these strangers, who had scarcely a
 “ spark of any thing Grecian * left, who retained
 “ but a faint tradition of their ancient descent
 “ from us, from whom the least inclination, or even
 “ word in our behalf, could not have been expected ;
 “ these strangers † have run the greatest risks, and
 “ submitted to the greatest labours, to deliver Greece
 “ from her cruel and tyrannic masters, and to crown
 “ her with liberty again.”

These were the reflections the Grecians made, and the actions of Flaminius justified them, being quite agreeable to his proclamation. For he immediately dispatched Lentulus into Asia, to set the Bargyllians free, and Titillius ‡ into Thrace, to draw Philip's garrisons out of the towns and adjacent islands. Publius Villius set sail in order to treat with Antiochus about the freedom of the Grecians under him. And Flaminius himself went to Chalcis, and sailed from thence to Magnesia, where he removed the garrison, and put the government again in the hands of the people.

At Argos, being appointed director of the Ne-mean games, he settled the whole order of them in the most agreeable manner, and on that occasion

* According to Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Rome was stocked with inhabitants at first, chiefly from those Grecian colonies which had settled in the south of Italy before the time of Romulus.

† The former translator has entirely mistaken the sense of this passage. The Greek runs thus—*ἔτοι τοις μεγί τοις κινδύνοις καί ποροις ἐξελομένοι τὴν Ἑλλάδα δεσποτῶν χαλεπῶν καὶ τυραννῶν ἐλευθερῶσιν*. His translation runs thus—*has retrieved Greece from her severest pressures, and deepest extremities, has rescued her out of the hands of insulting tyrants, and reinstated her in her former liberties*. It is plain he was led into this mistake by misunderstanding the Latin, beyond which language he had no ambition to go. *His maximis periculis et laboribus Graeciam gravibus solverunt dominis et tyrannis, atque in libertatem restituerunt*.

‡ Polybius and Livy call him Lucius Stertinius,

caused

caused liberty to be proclaimed again by the crier. And as he passed through the other cities, he strongly recommended to them an adherence to law, a strict course of justice, and domestic peace and unanimity. He healed their divisions; he restored their exiles. In short, he took not more pleasure in the conquest of the Macedonians, than in reconciling the Greeks to each other; and their liberty now appeared the least of the benefits he had conferred upon them.

It is said, that when Lycurgus the orator had delivered Xenocrates the philosopher out of the hands of the tax-gatherers who were hurrying him to prison for the tax paid by strangers, and had prosecuted them for their insolence; Xenocrates afterwards meeting the children of Lycurgus, said to them, "Children, I have made a noble return to your father for the service he did me; for all the world praise him for it." But the returns which attended Flaminius and the Romans for their beneficence to the Greeks terminated not in praises only, but justly procured them the confidence of all mankind, and added greatly to their power. For now a variety of people not only accepted the governors set over them by Rome, but even sent for them, and begged to be under their government. And not only cities and commonwealths, but kings, when injured by other kings, had recourse to their protection. So that, the divine assistance too perhaps co-operating, in a short time the whole world became subject to them. Flaminius also valued himself most upon the liberty he had bestowed on Greece. For having dedicated some silver bucklers together with his own shield, at Delphi, he put upon them the following inscription:

*Ye Spartan twins, who tam'd the foaming steed,
Ye friends, ye patrons of each glorious deed,
Behold Flaminius, of Æneas' line,
Presents this offering at your awful shrine.*

Ye

*Ye sons of love! your generous paths he trod,
And snatch'd from Greece each little tyrant's rod.*

He offered also to Apollo a golden crown, with these verses inscribed on it :

*See grateful Titus homage pay
To thee, the glorious god of day;
See him with gold thy locks adorn,
Thy locks which shed th' ambrosial morn.
O grant him fame and every gift divine,
Who led the warriors of Æneas' line.*

The Grecians have had the noble gift of liberty twice conferred upon them in the city of Corinth : by Flaminius then, and by Nero in our times. It was granted both times during the celebration of the Isthmian games. Flaminius had it proclaimed by an herald ; but Nero himself declared the Grecians free and at liberty to be governed by their own laws, in an oration which he made from the rostrum in the public assembly. This happened long after *.

Flaminius next undertook a very just and honourable war against Nabis, the wicked and abandoned tyrant of Lacedaemon ; but in this case he disappointed the hopes of Greece. For, though he might have taken him prisoner, he would not ; but struck up a league with him, and left Sparta unworthily in bondage ! Whether it was that he feared, if the war was drawn out to any length, a successor † would be sent

* Two hundred and sixty-three years.

† Livy touches upon this reason ; but at the same time he mentions others more to the honour of this great man. Winter was now coming on, and the siege of Sparta might have lasted a considerable time. The enemy's country was so exhausted, that it could not supply him with provisions, and it was difficult to get convoys from any other quarter. Besides, Villius was returned from the court of Antiochus, and brought advice that the peace with

sent him from Rome, who would rob him of the glory of it; or whether in his passion for fame he was jealous of the reputation of Philopoemen: a man who on all occasions had distinguished himself among the Greeks, and in that war particularly had given wonderful proofs both of courage and conduct; in-
 somuch that the Achaeans gloried in him as much as in Flaminius, and paid him the same respect in their theatres. This greatly hurt Flaminius; he could not bear that an Arcadian, who had only commanded in some inconsiderable wars upon the confines of his own country, should be held in equal admiration with a Roman consul, who had fought for all Greece. Flaminius, however, did not want apologies for his conduct: for he said, "he put an end to the war, " because he saw he could not destroy the tyrant " without involving all the Spartans in the mean time " in great calamities."

The Achaeans decreed Flaminius many honours, but none seemed equal to his services, unless it were one present, which pleased him above all the rest. It was this: the Romans who had the misfortune to be taken prisoners in the war with Hannibal, were sold for slaves, and dispersed in various places. Twelve hundred of them were now in Greece. That sad reverse of fortune made them always unhappy, but now (as might be expected) they were still more so, when they met their sons, their brothers, or their acquaintance, and saw them free while they were slaves, and conquerors while they were captives. Flaminius did not pretend to take them from their masters, though his heart sympathized with their distress. But the Achaeans redeemed them at the rate of five Minae a man, and having collected them together, made Flaminius a present of them, just as

with that prince was not to be depended upon. In fact, he had already entered Europe with a fleet and army more numerous than before. And what forces had they to oppose him, in case of a rupture, if Flaminius continued to employ his in the siege of Sparta?

Liv. xxxiv. 33, 34.

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he was going on board ; so that he set sail with great satisfaction, having found a glorious recompence for his glorious services, a return suitable to a man of such humane sentiments, and such a lover of his country. This indeed made the most illustrious part of his triumph. For these poor men got their heads shaved, and wore the cap of liberty, as the custom of slaves is upon their manumission, and in this habit they followed the chariot of Flaminius. But to add to the splendor of the shew, there were the Grecian helmets, the Macedonian targets and spears, and the other spoils carried in great pomp before him. And the quantity of money was not small ; for, as Itanus relates it, there were carried in this triumph three thousand seven hundred and thirteen pounds of unwrought gold, forty-three thousand two hundred and seventy of silver, fourteen thousand five hundred and fourteen pieces of coined gold, called Philippics ; besides which, Philip owed a thousand talents. But the Romans were afterwards prevailed upon, chiefly by the mediation of Flaminius, to remit this debt ; Philip was declared their ally, and his son, who had been with them as an hostage, sent home.

After this, Antiochus passed over into Greece with a great fleet and a powerful army, and solicited the states to join him. The Ætolians, who had been a long time ill affected to the Romans, took his part, and suggested this pretence for the war, that he came to bring the Grecians liberty. The Grecians had no want of it, for they were free already ; but, as he had no better cause to assign, they instructed him to cover his attempt with that splendid pretext.

The Romans, fearing, on this account, a revolt in Greece, as well as the strength of Antiochus, sent the consul Manius Acilius to command in the war, but appointed Flaminius * his lieutenant, for the

* According to Livy, it was not Titus, but Lucius Quinctius, who was appointed lieutenant to Glabrio.

fake of his influence in Greece. His appearance there immediately confirmed such as were yet friends, in their fidelity, and prevented those who were wavering from an entire defection. This was effected by the respect they bore him ; for it operated like a potent remedy at the beginning of a disease. There were a few, indeed, so entirely gained and corrupted by the Ætolians, that his interest did not prevail with them ; yet even these, though he was much exasperated against them at present, he saved after the battle. For Antiochus, being defeated at Thermopylae, and forced to fly, immediately embarked for Asia. Upon this, the consul Manius went against some of the Ætolians, and besieged their towns, abandoning others to Philip. Thus great ravages were committed by the Macedonians among the Dolopians and Magnesians on one hand, and among the Athamanians and Aperantians on the other ; and Manius himself, having sacked the city of Heraclea, besieged Naupactus, then in the hands of the Ætolians. But Flaminius, being touched with compassion for Greece, went from Peloponnesus to the consul by water. He began with remonstrating, that the consul, though he had won the victory himself, suffered Philip to reap the fruits of it ; and that while, to gratify his resentment, he spent his time about one town, the Macedonians were subduing whole provinces and kingdoms. The besieged happened to see Flaminius, called to him from the walls, stretched out their hands, and begged his interposition. He gave them no answer, but turned round and wept, and then immediately withdrew. Afterwards, however, he discoursed with Manius so effectually, that he appeased his anger, and procured the Ætolians a truce, and time to send deputies to Rome, to petition for favourable terms.

But he had much greater difficulties to combat, when he applied to Manius in behalf of the Chalcidians. The consul was highly incensed at them, on account of the marriage which Antiochus celebrated
among

among them, even after the war was begun ; a marriage every way unsuitable as well as unseasonable ; for he was far advanced in years, and the bride very young. The person he thus fell in love with was daughter to Cleoptolemus, and a virgin of incomparable beauty. This match brought the Chalcidians entirely into the king's interest, and they suffered him to make use of their city as a place of arms *. After the battle he fled with great precipitation to Chalcis, and taking with him his young wife, his treasures and his friends, sailed from thence to Asia. And now Manius in his indignation marching directly against Chalcis, Flaminius followed, and endeavoured to appease his resentment. At last he succeeded, by his assiduities with him and the most respectable Romans who were likely to have an influence upon him. The Chalcidians, thus saved from destruction, consecrated the most beautiful and the noblest of their public edifices to Titus Flaminius ; and such inscriptions as these are to be seen upon them to this day : " The people dedicate this Gymnasium to " Titus and Hercules : the people consecrate the " Delphinium to Titus and Apollo." Nay, what is more, even in our days, a priest of Titus is formally elected and declared ; and on occasions of sacrifice to him, when the libations are over, they sing an hymn, the greatest part of which, for the length of it, I omit, and only give the conclusion :

*While Rome's protecting power we prove,
Her faith adore, her virtues love,
Still, as our strains to heaven aspire,
Let Rome and Titus wake the lyre !
To these our grateful altars blaze,
And our long Pæans pour immortal praise.*

The rest of the Grecians conferred upon him all due honours ; and what realized those honours, and

* προς τον πο ορμνησιον.

added to their lustre, was the extraordinary affection of the people, which he had gained by his lenity and moderation. For if he happened to be at variance with any one, upon account of business, or about a point of honour, as, for instance, with Philopoemen, and with Diophanes general of the Achaeans, he never gave into malignity, or carried his resentment into action, but let it expire in words, in such expostulations as the freedom of public debates may seem to justify. Indeed, no man ever found him vindictive, but he often discovered a hastiness and passionate turn. Setting this aside, he was the most agreeable man in the world, and a pleasantry mixed with strong sense distinguished his conversation. Thus, to divert the Achaeans from their purpose of conquering the island of Zacynthus, he told them, "It was as dangerous for them to put their heads out of Peloponnesus, as it was for the tortoise to trust his out of his shell." In the first conference which Philip and he had about peace, Philip taking occasion to say, "Titus, you come with a numerous retinue, whereas I come quite alone:" Flaminius answered, "No wonder if you come alone, for you have killed all your friends and relations." Dinocrates the Messenian being in company at Rome, drank till he was intoxicated, and then put on a woman's habit, and danced in that disguise. Next day, he applied to Flaminius, and begged his assistance in a design which he had conceived, to withdraw Messene from the Achaean league. Flaminius answered, "I will consider of it; but I am surprised that you, who conceive such great designs, can sing and dance at a carousal." And when the ambassadors of Antiochus represented to the Achaeans, how numerous the king's forces were, and, to make them appear still more so, reckoned them up by all their different names; "I supped once," said Flaminius, "with a friend; and upon my complaining of the great number of dishes, and expressing my wonder how

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“ he could furnish his table with such a vast variety.
“ Be not uneasy about that, said my friend, for it
“ is all hog’s flesh, and the difference is only in the
“ dressing and the sauce. In like manner, I say to you,
“ my Achæan friend, be not astonished at the number
“ of Antiochus’s forces, at these Pikemen, these Hal-
“ berdiere and Cuirassiers; for they are all Syrians,
“ only distinguished by the trifling arms they bear.”

After these great actions in Greece, and the conclusion of the war with Antiochus, Flaminius was created censor. This is the chief dignity in the state, and the crown, as it were, of all its honours. He had for colleague the son of Marcellus, who had been five times consul. They expelled four senators who were men of no great note: and they admitted as citizens all who offered, provided that their parents were free. But they were forced to this by Terentius Culeo, a tribune of the people, who, in opposition to the nobility, procured such orders from the commons. Two of the greatest and most powerful men of those times, Scipio Africanus and Marcus Cato, were then at variance with each other. Flaminius appointed the former, president of the senate; as the first and best man in the commonwealth; and with the latter he entirely broke, on the following unhappy occasion. Titus had a brother named Lucius Quinctius Flaminius, unlike him in all respects, quite abandoned in his pleasures, and regardless of decorum. This Lucius had a favorite boy whom he carried with him, even when he commanded armies and governed provinces. One day, as they were drinking, the boy, making his court to Lucius, said, “ I love you so tenderly, that preferring your
“ satisfaction to my own, I left a show of Gladiators,
“ to come to you, though I have never seen a man
“ killed.” Lucius, delighted with the flattery, made answer, “ If that be all, you need not be in the least
“ uneasy, for I shall soon satisfy your longing.” He immediately ordered a convict to be brought from
the

the prison, and having sent for one of his lictors, commanded him to strike off the man's head, in the room where they were carousing. Valerius Antias writes, that this was done to gratify a mistress. And Livy relates, from Cato's writings, that a Gaulish deserter being at the door with his wife and children, Lucius took him into the banqueting-room, and killed him with his own hand; but it is probable, that Cato said this, to aggravate the charge. For that the person killed was not a deserter, but a prisoner, and a condemned one too, appears from many writers, and particularly from Cicero, in his treatise on old age, where he introduces Cato himself giving that account of the matter.

Upon this account, Cato, when he was censor, and set himself to remove all obnoxious persons from the senate, expelled Lucius, though he was of consular dignity. His brother thought this proceeding reflected dishonour upon himself; and they both went into the assembly in the form of suppliants, and besought the people with tears, that Cato might be obliged to assign this reason for fixing such a mark of disgrace upon so illustrious a family. The request appeared reasonable. Cato, without the least hesitation, came out, and standing up with his colleague, interrogated Titus, whether he knew any thing of that feast. Titus answering in the negative, Cato related the affair, and called upon Lucius to declare upon oath, whether it was not true. As Lucius made no reply, the people determined the note of infamy to be just, and conducted Cato home, with great honour, from the tribunal.

Titus, greatly concerned at his brother's misfortune, leagued with the inveterate enemies of Cato, and gaining a majority in the senate, quashed and annulled all the contracts, leases and bargains, which Cato had made, relating to the public revenues; and stirred up many and violent prosecutions against him. But I know not whether he acted well, or agreeably

to good policy, in thus becoming a mortal enemy to a man who had only done what became a lawful magistrate and good citizen, for the sake of one who was a relation indeed, but an unworthy one, and who had met with the punishment he deserved. Some time after, however, the people being assembled in the theatre to see the shows, and the senate seated, according to custom, in the most honourable place, Lucius was observed to go in an humble and dejected manner, and sit down upon one of the lowest benches. The people could not bear to see this, but called out to him to go up higher, and ceased not till he went to the consular bench, who made room for him.

The native ambition of Flaminius was applauded, while it found sufficient matter to employ itself upon in the wars we have given account of. And his serving in the army as a tribune, after he had been consul, was regarded with a favourable eye, though no one required it of him. But when he was arrived at an age that excused him from all employments, he was blamed for indulging a violent passion for fame, and a youthful impetuosity in that inactive season of life. To some excess of this kind seems to have been owing his behaviour with respect to Hannibal *, at which the world was much offended. For Hannibal having fled his country, took refuge first at the court of Antiochus. But Antiochus, after he had lost the battle in Phrygia, gladly accepting conditions of peace, Hannibal was again forced to fly; and, after wandering through many countries, at length settled in Bithynia, and put himself under the pro-

* Flaminius was no more than forty-four years of age, when he went ambassador to Prusias. It was not therefore an unreasonable desire of a public character, or extravagant passion for fame, which was blamed in him on this occasion, but an unworthy persecution of a great, though unfortunate man. We are inclined however to think, that he had secret instructions from the senate for what he did: for it is not probable that a man of his mild and humane disposition would chuse to hunt down an old unhappy warrior: and Plutarch confirms this opinion afterwards.

tection of Prusias. The Romans knew this perfectly well, but they took no notice of it, considering him now as a man enfeebled by age, and overthrown by fortune. But Flaminius, being sent by the senate upon an embassy to Prusias about other matters, and seeing Hannibal at his court, could not endure that he should be suffered to live. And though Prusias used much intercession and intreaty in behalf of a man who came to him as a suppliant, and lived with him under the sanction of hospitality, he could not prevail.

It seems there was an ancient oracle, which thus prophesied concerning the end of Hannibal.

Libyſſan earth ſhall hide the bones of Hannibal.

He therefore thought of nothing but ending his days at Carthage, and being buried in Libya. But in Bithynia there is a ſandy place near the ſea, which has a ſmall village in it called Libyſſa. In this neighbourhood Hannibal lived. But having always been apprized of the timidity of Prusias, and diſtrusting him on that account, and dreading withal the attempts of the Romans, he had ſometime before ordered ſeven ſubterraneous paſſages to be dug under his houſe; which were continued a great way under ground, and terminated in ſeveral different places, but were all undiſcernible without. As ſoon as he was informed of the orders which Flaminius had given, he attempted to make his eſcape by thoſe paſſages; but finding the king's guards at the outlets, he reſolved to kill himſelf. Some ſay, he wound his cloak about his neck, and ordered his ſervant to put his knees upon his back, and pull with all his force, and not to leave twiſting till he had quite ſtrangled him. Others tell us, that, like Themiſtocles and Midas, he drank bull's blood. But Livy writes, that having poiſon in readineſs, he mixed it for a draught; and taking the cup in his hand, "Let us deliver the Romans," ſaid he, "from their cares and anxieties, ſince they think it too tedious and dangerous to wait for the
E 3 " death

“ death of a poor hated old man. Yet shall not
“ Titus gain a conquest worth envying, or suitable
“ to the generous proceedings of his ancestors, who
“ sent to caution Pyrrhus, though a victorious ene-
“ my, against the poison that was prepared for
“ him.”

Thus Hannibal is said to have died. When the news was brought to the senate, many in that august body were highly displeased. Flaminius appeared too officious and cruel in his precautions, to procure the death of Hannibal now tamed by his misfortunes, like a bird that through age had lost its tail and feathers, and suffered to live so. And as he had no orders to put him to death, it was plain that he did it from a passion for fame, and to be mentioned in after-times as the destroyer of Hannibal *. On this occasion they recollected and admired more than ever the humane and generous behaviour of Scipio Africanus ; for when he had vanquished Hannibal in Africa, at a time when he was extremely formidable, and deemed invincible, he neither insisted on his banishment, nor demanded him of his fellow-citizens : but, as he had embraced him at the conference which he had with him before the battle ; so, after it, when he settled the conditions of peace, he offered not the least affront or insult to his misfortunes.

It is reported that they met again at Ephesus, and Hannibal, as they walked together, taking the upper hand, Africanus suffered it, and walked on without the least concern. Afterwards they fell into conversation about great generals, and Hannibal asserted that Alexander was the greatest general the world had ever seen, that Pyrrhus was the second, and himself the third. Scipio smiled at this, and said, “ But

* If this was really the motive of Flaminius, and nothing of a political tendency entered into this dastardly destruction of that great general, it would hardly be possible for all the virtues, all the triumphs of the Romans, to redeem him from the infamy of so base an action.

“ what

“ what rank would you have placed yourself in, if
“ I had not conquered you ?” “ O! Scipio,” said he,
“ then I would not have placed myself the third,
“ but the first.”

The generality admiring this moderation of Scipio, found the greater fault with Flaminius for taking the spoils of an enemy whom another man had slain. There were some, indeed, who applauded the thing, and observed, “ That while Hannibal lived, they
“ must have looked upon him as a fire, which wanted
“ only to be blown into a flame. That, when
“ he was in the vigour of his age, it was not his bodily strength or his right hand which was so dreadful to the Romans, but his capacity and experience, together with his innate rancour and hatred to their name. And that these are not altered
“ by age; for the native disposition still over-rules
“ the manners; whereas fortune, far from remaining the same, changes continually, and by new
“ hopes invites those to new enterprizes who were
“ ever at war with us in their hearts.” And the subsequent events contributed still more to the justification of Flaminius. For, in the first place, Aristonicus, the son of a harper’s daughter, on the strength of his being reputed the natural son of Eumenes, filled all Asia with tumult and rebellion: and in the next place, Mithridates, after such strokes as he had met with from Sylla and Fimbria, and so terrible a destruction among his troops and officers, rose up stronger than ever against Lucullus, both by sea and land. Indeed, Hannibal was never brought so low as Caius Marius had been. For Hannibal enjoyed the friendship of a king, from whom he received liberal supplies, and with whose officers, both in the navy and army, he had important connections; whereas Marius was a wanderer in Africa, and forced to beg his bread. But the Romans who had laughed at his fall, soon after bled in their own streets, under his rods and axes, and prostrated themselves

before him. So true it is, that there is nothing either great or little at this moment, which is sure to hold so in the days to come; and that the changes we have to experience, only determine with our lives. For this reason, some tell us, that Flaminius did not do this of himself, but that he was joined in commission with Lucius Scipio, and that the sole purpose of their embassy, was to procure the death of Hannibal. As we have no account after this, of any political or military act of Flaminius, and only know that he died in his bed, it is time to come to the comparison.

FLAMINIUS *and* PHILOPOEMEN
compared.

IF we consider the extensive benefits which Greece received from Flaminius, we shall find that neither Philopoemen, nor other Grecians more illustrious than Philopoemen, will stand the comparison with him. For the Greeks always fought against Greeks; but Flaminius, who was not of Greece, fought for that country. And at a time when Philopoemen, unable to defend his fellow-citizens who were engaged in a dangerous war, passed over into Crete, Flaminius having vanquished Philip in the heart of Greece, set cities and whole nations free. If we examine into their battles, it will appear, that Philopoemen, while he commanded the Achaean forces, killed more Greeks, than Flaminius, in asserting the Grecian cause, killed Macedonians.

As to their failings, ambition was the fault of Flaminius, and obstinacy that of Philopoemen. The former was passionate, and the latter implacable. Flaminius left Philip in his royal dignity, and pardoned the Ætolians: whereas Philopoemen, in his resentment against his country, robbed her of several of her dependencies. Besides; Flaminius was always a firm friend to those whom he had once served; but Philopoemen was ever ready to destroy the merit
of

of his former kindneſſes, only to indulge his anger. For he had been a great benefactor to the Lacedaemonians ; but afterwards he demolished their walls, and ravaged their country ; and in the end entirely changed and overturned their conſtitution. Nay, he ſeems to have ſacrificed his life to his paſſion and perverſeneſs, by too haſtily and unſeaſonably invading Meſſenia ; inſtead of taking, like Flaminius, every precaution for his own ſecurity and that of his troops.

But Philopoemen's military knowledge and experience was perfected by his many wars and victories. And, whereas Flaminius decided his diſpute with Philip in two engagements ; Philopoemen, by conquering in an incredible number of battles, left fortune no room to queſtion his ſkill.

Flaminius, moreover, availed himſelf of the power of a great and flouriſhing commonwealth, and raiſed himſelf by it's ſtrength ; but Philopoemen diſtinguiſhed himſelf at a time when his country was upon the decline. So that the ſucceſs of the one is to be aſcribed ſolely to himſelf, and that of the other to all the Romans. The one had good troops to command ; and the other made thoſe ſo which he commanded. And though the great actions of Philopoemen, being performed againſt Grecians, do not prove him a fortunate man, yet they prove him a brave man. For, where all other things are equal, great ſucceſs muſt be owing to ſuperior excellence. He had to do with two of the moſt warlike nations among the Greeks, the Cretans who were the moſt artful, and the Lacedaemonians who were the moſt valiant ; and yet he maſtered the former by policy, and the latter by courage. Add to this, that Flaminius had his men ready armed and diſciplined to his hand, whereas Philopoemen had the armour of his to alter, and to new-model their diſcipline. So that the things which contribute moſt to victory, were the invention of the one, while the other only practiſed what was already in uſe. Accordingly Philopoemen's

poemen's personal exploits were many and great; but we find nothing of that kind remarkable in Flaminus. On the contrary, a certain Ætolian, said, by way of raillery, "Whilst * I ran, with my drawn sword, to charge the Macedonians, who stood firm and continued fighting, Titus was standing still, with his hands lifted up towards heaven, and praying."

It is true, all the acts of Flaminus were glorious, where he was general, and during his lieutenancy too; but Philopoemen shewed himself no less serviceable and active among the Achæans, when in a private capacity, than when he had the command. For, when commander in chief, he drove Nabis out of the city of Messene, and restored the inhabitants to their liberty; but he was only in a private station; when he shut the gates of Sparta against the general Diophanus, and against Flaminus, and by that means saved the Lacedæmonians. Indeed, nature had given him such talents for command, that he knew, not only how to govern according to the laws, but how to govern the laws themselves, when the public good required it; not waiting for the formality of the people's appointing him, but rather employing them, when the occasion demanded it. For he was persuaded, that, not he whom the people elect, but he who thinks best for the people, is the true general.

There was undoubtedly something great and generous in the clemency and humanity of Flaminus towards the Grecians; but there was something still greater and more generous in the resolution which Philopoemen shewed in maintaining the liberties of Greece against the Romans. For it is a much easier matter to be liberal to the weak, than to oppose, and to support a dispute with the strong. Since, there-

* The former translator makes the Ætolian say this of Philopoemen; but the original will not bear it. In that case, the Greek, instead of *ὡς ὅτε αὐτός, κ. τ. λ* would have run, *ὡς ὅτε ἐκείνος.*

fore,

fore, after all our enquiry into the characters of these two great men, the superiority is not obvious, perhaps we shall not greatly err, if we give the Grecian the palm of generalship and military skill, and the Roman that of justice and humanity.

P Y R R H U S.

SOME historians write, that Phaeton was the first king after the deluge who reigned over the Thesprotians and Molossians, and that he was one of those who came with Pelasgus into Epirus. Others say, that Deucalion and Pyrrha, after they had built the temple of Dodona*, settled among the Molossians. In after-times† Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles, taking his people with him, possessed himself of the country, and left a succession of kings after him, called Pyrrhidae; for in his infancy he was called Pyrrhus; and he gave that name to one of his legitimate sons whom he had by Lanassa the daughter of Cleodes son of Hyllus. From that time Achilles had divine honours in Epirus, being stiled there Aspetos (i. e. the Inimitable). After these first kings, those that followed, became entirely barbarous, and both their power and their actions sunk into the utmost obscurity. Tharrytas‡ is the first whom history mentions as remarkable for polish-

* Probably it was only a druidical kind of temple.

† Between Deucalion's flood and the times of Neoptolemus, there was a space of about three hundred and forty years.

‡ Justin does not ascribe the civilizing of the Molossians to Tharrytas, but to Arybas the son of Alcetas I. who had himself been polished and humanized by his education at Athens.

ing and improving his cities with Grecian customs, with letters and good laws. Alcetas was the son of Tharrytas, Arybas of Alcetas; and of Arybas and Troias his queen was born Æacides. He married Phthia, the daughter of Menon the Theſſalian, who acquired great reputation in the Lamian war, and, next to Leosthenes, was the most considerable of the confederates. By Phthia Æacides had two daughters named Deidamia and Troias, and a son named Pyrrhus.

But the Molossians, rising against Æacides, deposed him, and brought in the sons of Neoptolemus *. On this occasion the friends of Æacides were taken and slain: only Androclides and Angelus escaped with his infant son, though he was much sought after by his enemies; and carried him off with his nurses and a few necessary attendants. This train rendered their flight difficult and slow, so that they were soon overtaken. In this extremity they put the child in the hands of Androcleon, Hippias and Neander, three active young men whom they could depend upon, and ordered them to make the best of their way to Megaræ, a town in Macedonia; while they themselves, partly by intreaty, and partly by force, stopt the course of the pursuers till evening; when, having with much difficulty got clear of them, they hastened to join those who carried the young prince. At sun-set, they thought themselves near the summit of their hopes, but they met with a sudden disappointment. When they came to the river that runs by the town, it looked rough and dreadful; and upon trial, they found it absolutely unfordable. For the current, being swelled with the late rains, was very high and boisterous, and darkness added to the horror. They now despaired of getting the child and his nurses over, without some other assistance; when perceiving some of the inhabitants of the place on the other side, they begged of them to assist their passage, and held up Pyrrhus towards them. But

* This Neoptolemus was the Brother of Arybas.

though

though they called out loud and intreated earnestly, the stream ran so rapid and made such a roaring that they could not be heard. Some time was spent, while they were crying out on one side, and listening to no purpose on the other. At last one of Pyrrhus's company thought of peeling off a piece of oak-bark, and of expressing upon it, with the tongue of a buckle, the necessities and fortunes of the child. Accordingly, he put this in execution, and having rolled the piece of bark about a stone, he threw it to the other side. Some say, he bound it fast to a javelin, and darted it over. When the people on the other side had read it, and saw there was not a moment to lose, they cut down trees, and made a raft of them, and crossed the river upon it. It happened that the first man who reached the bank, was named Achilles. He took Pyrrhus in his arms, and conveyed him over, while his companions performed the same service for his followers.

Pyrrhus and his train, having thus got safe over, and escaped the pursuers, continued their route till they arrived at the court of Glaucias king of Illyria. They found the king sitting in his palace with the queen his consort *, and laid the child at his feet in the posture of a suppliant. The king who stood in fear of Cassander, the enemy of Æacides, remained a long time silent, considering what part he should act. While Pyrrhus of his own accord creeping closer to him, took hold of his robe, and raising himself up to his knees, by this action first excited a smile, and afterwards compassion; for he thought he saw a petitioner before him begging his protection with tears. Some say, it was not Glaucias, but the altar of the domestic gods which he approached, and that he raised himself by embracing it; from which it

* Justin calls this princess Teroa, and says she was of the family of the Æacidæ: which must have been the reason of their seeking refuge for Pyrrhus in that court.

appeared

appeared to Glaucias that heaven interested itself in the infant's favour. For this reason he put him immediately in the hands of the queen, and ordered her to bring him up with his own children. His enemies demanding him soon after, and Cassander offering two hundred talents to have him delivered up, Glaucias refused to do it; and when he came to be twelve years old, conducted him into Epirus at the head of an army, and placed him upon the throne.

Pyrrhus had an air of majesty rather terrible than august. Instead of teeth, in his upper jaw he had one continued bone, marked with small lines resembling the divisions of a row of teeth. It was believed, that he cured the swelling of the spleen, by sacrificing a white cock, and with his right foot gently pressing the part affected, the patients lying upon their backs for that purpose. There was no person, however, poor or mean, refused this relief, if requested. He received no reward, except the cock for sacrifice, and this present was very agreeable to him. It is also said, that the great toe of that foot had a divine virtue in it: for, after his death, when the rest of his body was consumed, that toe was found entire and untouched by the flames. But this account belongs not to the period we are upon.

When he was about seventeen years of age, and seemed to be quite established in his kingdom, he happened to be called out of his own territories, to attend the nuptials of one of Glaucias's sons, with whom he had been educated. On this occasion the Molossians revolting again, drove out his friends, pillaged his treasures, and put themselves once more under Neoptolemus. Pyrrhus having thus lost the crown, and being in want of every thing, applied himself to Demetrius, the son of Antigonus, who had married his sister Deidamia. That princess, when very young, had been promised to Alexander the son of Roxana [by Alexander the Great;] but that family being unfortunately cut off, she was given,
when

when she came to be marriageable, to Demetrius. In the great battle of Ipsus, where all the kings * of the earth were engaged, Pyrrhus accompanied Demetrius; and, though but young, bore down all before him, and highly distinguished himself among the combatants. Nor did he forsake Demetrius, when unsuccessful, but kept for him those cities of Greece with which he was entrusted; and when the treaty was concluded with Ptolemy, he went to Egypt as an hostage. There, both in hunting and other exercises, he gave Ptolemy proofs of his strength and indefatigable abilities. Observing that among Ptolemy's wives, Berenice was she who had the greatest power, and was most eminent for virtue and understanding, he attached himself most to her. For he had a particular art of making his court to the great, while he overlooked those that were below him. And as in his whole conduct he paid great attention to decency, temperance and prudence, Antigone, who was daughter to Berenice by her first husband Philip, was given him, in preference to many other young princes.

On this account he was held in greater honour than ever: and Antigone proving an excellent wife, procured him men and money, which enabled him to recover his kingdom of Epirus. At his arrival there his subjects received him with open arms; for Neoptolemus was become obnoxious to the people, by reason of his arbitrary and tyrannical government. Nevertheless, Pyrrhus, apprehending that Neoptolemus might have recourse to some of the other kings, came to an agreement with him, and associated him in the kingdom. But in process of time there were some who privately sowed dissention and jealousies between them. Pyrrhus's chief quarrel

* He says all the kings of the earth were engaged, because Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy, Cassander, Antigonus and Demetrius were there in person. This battle was fought about 300 years before Christ.

with Neoptolemus is said to have taken its rise as follows. It had been a custom for the kings of Epirus to hold an assembly at Passaron, a place in the province of the Molossians; where, after sacrificing to Jupiter *the warrior*, mutual oaths were taken by them and their subjects. The kings were sworn *to govern according to law*, and the people, *to defend the crown according to law*. Both the kings met on this occasion, attended by their friends, and after the ceremony, great presents were made on all sides. Gelon, who was very cordially attached to Neoptolemus, among the rest, paid his respects to Pyrrhus, and made him a present of two yoke of oxen*. Myrtilus, one of this prince's cupbearers, begged them of him; but Pyrrhus refused him, and gave them to another. Gelon perceiving that Myrtilus took the disappointment extremely ill, invited him to sup with him. After supper he solicited him to embrace the interest of Neoptolemus, and to poison Pyrrhus. Myrtilus seemed to listen to his suggestions with satisfaction, but discovered the whole to his master. Then, by his order, he introduced to Gelon, the chief cupbearer Alexicrates, as a person who was willing to enter into the conspiracy: for Pyrrhus was desirous to have more than one witness to so black an enterprise. Gelon being thus deceived, Neoptolemus was deceived with him; and thinking the affair in great forwardness, could not contain himself, but in the excess of his joy mentioned it to his friends. One evening, in particular, being at supper with his sister Cadmia, he discovered the whole design, thinking nobody else within hearing. And indeed there was none in the room but Phaenarete the wife of Samon chief keeper of Neoptolemus's cattle; and she laid upon a couch with her face turned towards the wall, and seemed to be asleep. She heard, however, the whole, without being suspected, and went the next day to Antigone the wife of Pyrrhus, and related to her all

* This present was characteristical of the simplicity of antient times.
that

that she had heard Neoptolemus say to his sister: This was immediately laid before Pyrrhus, who took no notice of it for the present. But, on occasion of a solemn sacrifice, he invited Neoptolemus to supper, and took that opportunity to kill him. For he was well assured that all the leading men in Epirus were strongly attached to him, and wanted him to remove Neoptolemus out of the way; that, no longer satisfied with a small share of the kingdom, he might possess himself of the whole; and by following his genius, rise to great attempts. And, as they had now a strong suspicion besides, that Neoptolemus was practising against him, they thought this was the time to prevent him by giving him the fatal blow.

In acknowledgement of the obligations he had to Berenice and Ptolemy, he named his son by Antigone *Ptolemy*, and called the city which he built in the Chersonese of Epirus, *Berenicis*. From this time he began to conceive many great designs, but his first hopes laid hold of all that was near home: and he found a plausible pretence to concern himself in the affairs of Macedonia. Antipater, the eldest son of Cassander, had killed his mother Theffalonica, and expelled his brother Alexander. Alexander sent to Demetrius for succour, and implored likewise the assistance of Pyrrhus. Demetrius, having many affairs upon his hands, could not presently comply; but Pyrrhus came and demanded, as the reward of his services, the city of Nymphaea *, and all the maritime coast of Macedonia, together with Ambracia, Acarnania, and Amphilochia, which were some of the countries that did not originally belong to the kingdom of Macedon. The young prince agreeing to the conditions, Pyrrhus possessed himself of these countries, and secured

* Dacier thinks Apollonia might be called Nymphaea from Nymphaeum, a celebrated rock in its neighbourhood. Palmerius would read Tymphaea; that being the name of a town in those parts. There was a city called Nymphaeum in the Taurica Chersonesus, but that could not be meant here.

them with his garrisons; after which, he went on conquering the rest for Alexander, and driving Antipater before him.

King Lyfimachus was well inclined to give Antipater assistance, but he was so much engaged with his own affairs, that he could not find time for it. Recollecting, however, that Pyrrhus would refuse nothing to his friend Ptolemy, he forged letters in Ptolemy's name, enjoining him to evacuate Macedonia, and to be satisfied with three hundred talents from Antipater. But Pyrrhus no sooner opened the letters, than he perceived the forgery. For, instead of the customary salutation, *the father to his son, greeting*, they began with, *king Ptolemy to king Pyrrhus, greeting*. He inveighed against Lyfimachus for the fraud, but listened, notwithstanding, to proposals of peace; and the three princes met to offer sacrifices on the occasion, and to swear upon the altar to the articles. A boar, a bull, and a ram being led up as victims, the ram dropped down dead of himself. The rest of the company laughed at the accident; but Theodotus the diviner advised Pyrrhus not to swear, declaring that the deity presignified the death of one of the kings*; upon which he refused to ratify the peace.

Alexander's affairs were thus advantageously settled; nevertheless Demetrius came. But it soon appeared that he came now unrequested, and that his presence excited rather fear than gratitude. When they had been a few days together, in mutual distrust they laid snares for each other: but Demetrius finding the first opportunity, was beforehand with Alexander, killed him, and got himself proclaimed king of Macedon.

He for a long time had subjects of complaint against Pyrrhus, on account of the inroads which he had made into Thessaly. Besides, that ambition to extend their dominions, which is a distemper natural

* Alexander was murdered soon after.

to kings, rendered their neighbourhood mutually alarming. These jealousies increased after the death of Deidamia. At last each having possessed himself of part of Macedonia, and having one object in view, the gaining of the whole, this produced of course new causes of contention. Demetrius marched against the Ætolians, and reduced them. After which, he left Pantauchus among them with a considerable force, and went himself to seek Pyrrhus. Pyrrhus, as soon as he was apprised of his design, went to meet him; but taking a wrong route, they inadvertently passed each other. Demetrius entered Epirus, and committed great ravages; and Pyrrhus, falling in with Pantauchus, gave him battle. The dispute was warm and obstinate on both sides, especially where the generals fought. For Pantauchus, who in dexterity, courage and strength stood foremost among the officers of Demetrius, and withal was a man of a high and ambitious spirit, challenged Pyrrhus to the combat. And Pyrrhus, who was behind none of the princes of his time in valour and renown, and who was desirous to appropriate to himself the honours of Achilles, rather by his sword than by kindred, advanced through the first lines against Pantauchus. They began with the javelin; and then coming to the sword, exhausted all that art or strength could supply. Pyrrhus received one wound, and gave his adversary two, one in the thigh, and the other in the neck; by which he overpowered him, and brought him to the ground; but could not kill him outright, because he was rescued by his friends. The Epirots, elated with their prince's victory, and admiring his valour, broke into and dispersed the Macedonian phalanx, and pursuing the fugitives, killed great numbers of them, and took five thousand prisoners.

This battle did not so much excite the resentment and hatred of the Macedonians against Pyrrhus for what they suffered, as it inspired them with an esteem

his abilities, and admiration of his valour. This furnished a subject of discourse to all who were witnesses to his exploits, or were engaged against him in the action. For he recalled to their minds the countenance, the swiftness, and motion of Alexander the Great; in Pyrrhus they thought they saw the very image of his force and impetuosity. And while the other kings represented that hero only in their purple robes, in the number of guards, the bend of the neck, and the lofty manner of speaking, the king of Epirus represented him in deeds of arms and personal achievements. And of his great skill in ordering and drawing up an army, we have proofs in the writings he left behind him. It is also said, that Antigonus, being asked, "Who was the greatest general," answered, "Pyrrhus would be, if he lived to be old." Antigonus, indeed, spoke only of the generals of his time: but Hannibal said that of all the world had ever beheld, the first in genius and skill was Pyrrhus, Scipio the second, and himself the third; as we have written in the life of Scipio *. This was the only science he applied himself to; this was the subject of his thoughts and conversation: for he considered it as a royal study, and looked upon other arts as mere trifling amusements. And it is reported that when he was asked, "Whether he thought Python or Cæphias the best musician," "Polysperchon," said he, "is the general;" intimating that this was the only point which it became a king to enquire into or know.

In the intercourse of life he was mild and not easily provoked, but ardent and quick to repay a kindness. For this reason he was greatly afflicted at the death of Æropus. "His friend," he said, "had only paid the tribute to nature, but he blamed and re-

* This is differently related, p. 54, in the life of Flaminius. There it is said, that Hannibal placed Alexander first, Pyrrhus second, and himself the third.

"proached

“ proached himself for putting off his acknowledg-
 “ ments, till by these delays he had lost the oppor-
 “ tunity of making any return. For those that owe
 “ money, can pay it to the heirs of the deceased,
 “ but when a return of kindnesses is not made to
 “ a person in his life-time, it grieves the heart that
 “ has any goodness and honour in it.” When some
 advised him to banish a certain ill-tongued Ambra-
 cian, who abused him behind his back, “ Let the
 “ fellow stay here,” said he, “ and speak against me
 “ to a few, rather than ramble about, and give me a
 “ bad character to all the world.” And some young
 men having taken great liberties with his character
 in their cups, and being afterwards brought to an-
 swer for it, he asked them, “ Whether they had
 “ really said such things ?” “ We did, Sir,” answered
 one of them, “ and should have said a great deal
 “ more, if we but had more wine.” Upon which,
 he laughed, and dismissed them.

After the death of Antigone, he married several
 wives, for the purposes of interest and power: name-
 ly, the daughter of Autoleon king of the Paeonians;
 Bircenna, the daughter of Bardyllis king of the Il-
 lyrians; and Lanassa, the daughter of Agathocles
 of Syracuse, who brought him in dowry the Isle of
 Corcyra, which her father had taken. By Antigone
 he had a son named Ptolemy; by Lanassa he had
 Alexander; and by Bircenna, his youngest son He-
 lenus. All these princes had naturally a turn for
 war, and he quickened their martial ardour by giving
 them a suitable education from their infancy. For
 it is said, when he was asked by one of them who
 was yet a child, “ To which of them he would leave
 “ his kingdom,” he said, “ To him who has the
 “ sharpest sword.” This was very like that tragical
 legacy of Oedipus to his sons,

* *The sword's keen point th' inheritance shall part*.*

* Phenissæ of Euripides, ver. 68.

F 4

After

After the battle, Pyrrhus returned home distinguished with glory, and still more elevated in his sentiments. The Epirots having given him on this occasion the name of Eagle, he said, "If I am an eagle, you have made me one; for it is upon your arms, upon your wings, that I have risen so high."

Soon after, having intelligence that Demetrius lay dangerously ill, he suddenly entered Macedonia*, intending only an inroad to pillage the country. But he was very near seizing the whole, and taking the kingdom without a blow. For he pushed forward as far as Edeffa without meeting with any resistance: on the contrary, many of the inhabitants repaired to his camp and joined him. The danger awaked Demetrius, and made him act above his strength. His friends, too, and officers quickly assembled a good body of troops, and moved forward with great spirit and vigour against Pyrrhus. But as he came only with a design to plunder, he did not stand to receive them. He lost, however, a considerable number of men in his retreat; for the Macedonians harassed his rear all the way.

Demetrius, though he had driven out Pyrrhus with so much ease, was far from flighting and despising him afterwards. But as he meditated great things, and had determined to attempt the recovery of his paternal kingdom with an army of an hundred thousand men and five hundred sail of ships, he thought it not prudent either to embroil himself with Pyrrhus, or to leave behind him so dangerous a neighbour. And as he was not at leisure to continue the war with him, he concluded a peace, that he might turn his arms with more security against the † other kings. The designs of Demetrius were soon discovered by this peace, and by the greatness of his preparations.

* In the third year of the hundred and twenty-third Olympiad, two hundred and eighty-four years before Christ.

† Seleucus, Ptolemy, and Lyfimachus.

The kings were alarmed, and sent ambassadors to Pyrrhus with letters, expressing their astonishment, that he neglected his opportunity to make war upon Demetrius. They represented with how much ease he might drive him out of Macedonia, thus engaged as he was in many troublesome enterprises; instead of which, he waited till Demetrius had dispatched all his other affairs, and was grown so much more powerful as to be able to bring the war to his own doors, and to put him under the necessity of fighting for the altars of his gods, and the sepulchres of his ancestors in Molossia itself: and this too, when he had just been deprived by Demetrius of the isle of Corcyra, together with his wife. For Lanassa having her complaints against Pyrrhus, for paying more attention to his other wives, though Barbarians, than to her, had retired to Corcyra; and, wanting to marry another king, invited Demetrius to receive her hand, knowing him to be more inclined to marriage than any of the neighbouring princes. Accordingly he sailed to the island, married Lanassa, and left a garrison in the city.

The kings, at the same time that they wrote these letters to Pyrrhus, took the field themselves to harass Demetrius, who delayed his expedition, and continued his preparations. Ptolemy put to sea with a great fleet, and drew off many of the Grecian cities. Lyfimachus entered the Upper Macedonia from Thrace, and ravaged the country. And Pyrrhus taking up arms at the same time, marched against Beroea, expecting that Demetrius would go to meet Lyfimachus, and leave the Lower Macedonia unguarded; which fell out accordingly. The night before he set out, he dreamed that Alexander the Great called him, and that when he came to him, he found him sick in bed, but was received with many obliging expressions of friendship, and a promise of sudden assistance. Pyrrhus said, "How can you, Sir, who are sick, be able to assist me?" Alexander answered,

answered, " I will do it with my name : " at the same time he mounted a Nisæan * horse, and seemed to lead the way.

Pyrrhus, greatly encouraged by this vision, advanced with the utmost expedition, and having traversed the intermediate countries, came before Beroea, and took it. There he fixed his head-quarters, and reduced the other cities by his generals. When Demetrius received intelligence of this, and perceived, moreover, a spirit of mutiny among the Macedonians in his camp, he was afraid to proceed farther, lest, when they came in sight of a Macedonian prince, and one of an illustrious character too, they should revolt to him. He therefore, turned back, and led them against Pyrrhus, who was a stranger, and the object of their hatred. Upon his encamping near Beroea, many inhabitants of that place mixed with his soldiers, and highly extolled Pyrrhus. They represented him as a man invincible in arms, of uncommon magnanimity, and one who treated those who fell into his hands with great gentleness and humanity. There were also some of Pyrrhus's emissaries, who, pretending themselves Macedonians, observed to Demetrius's men, that then was the time to get free from his cruel yoke, and to embrace the interests of Pyrrhus who was a popular man, and who loved a soldier. After this, the greatest part of the army was in a ferment, and they cast their eyes around for Pyrrhus. It happened that he was then without his helmet; but, recollecting himself, he soon put it on again, and was immediately known by his lofty plume and his crest of goats horns †. Many

* Nisæa was a province near the Caspian sea, which Strabo tells us was famous for its breed of horses. The kings of Persia used to be provided from thence. STRABO, lib. xi.

† Alexander the Great is represented on his medals with such a crest. The goat, indeed, was the symbol of the kingdom of Macedon. The prophet Daniel uses it as such. The original of that symbol may be found in Justin.

of the Macedonians now ran to him, and begged him to give them the word*; while others crowned themselves with branches of oak, because they saw them worn by his men. Some had even the confidence to tell Demetrius, that the most prudent part he could take, would be to withdraw, and lay down the government. As he found the motions of the army agreeable to this sort of discourse, he was terrified, and made off privately, disguised in a mean cloak and a common Macedonian hat. Pyrrhus, upon this, became master of the camp without striking a blow, and was proclaimed king of Macedonia.

Lyfimachus made his appearance soon after, and, pretending that he had contributed equally, to the flight of Demetrius, demanded his share of the kingdom. Pyrrhus, as he thought himself not sufficiently established among the Macedonians, but rather in a dubious situation, accepted the proposal; and they divided the cities and provinces between them. This partition seemed to be of service for the present, and prevented their going directly to war; but, soon after, they found it the beginning of perpetual complaints and quarrels, instead of a perfect reconciliation. For how is it possible that they whose ambition is not to be terminated by seas and mountains and uninhabitable deserts, whose thirst of dominion is not to be confined by the bounds that part Europe and Asia, should, when so near each other, and joined in one lot, sit down contented, and abstain from mutual injuries? undoubtedly they are always at war in their hearts, having the seeds of perfidy and envy there. As for the names of Peace and War, they apply them occasionally, like money, to their use, not to the purposes of justice. And they act with much more probity, when they professedly make war,

* συνδυμα προττεχοντας αιτειν.—

συνδυμα may signify *the word*, because it helps to keep the soldiers together.

than

than when they sanctify a short truce and cessation of mutual injuries, with the names of justice and friendship. Pyrrhus was a proof of this. For opposing Demetrius again, when his affairs began to be a little re-established, and checking his power, which seemed to be recovering, as it were, from a great illness, he marched to the assistance of the Grecians, and went in person to Athens. He ascended into the citadel, and sacrificed to the goddesses; after which he came down into the city the same day, and thus addressed the people: "I think myself happy in this testimony of the kind regard of the Athenians, and of the confidence they put in me; I advise them, however, as they tender their safety, never to admit another king within their walls, but to shut their gates against all that shall desire it*."

Soon after this he concluded a peace with Demetrius: and yet Demetrius was no sooner passed into Asia, than Pyrrhus, at the instigation of Lyfimachus, drew off Thessaly from its allegiance, and attacked his garrisons in Greece. He found, indeed, the Macadonians better subjects in time of war than in peace, besides that he himself was more fit for action than repose. At last Demetrius being entirely defeated in Syria, Lyfimachus, who had nothing to fear from that quarter, nor any other affairs to engage him, immediately turned his forces against Pyrrhus, who lay in quarters at Edeffa. Upon his arrival, he fell upon one of the king's convoys, and took it, by which he greatly distressed his troops for want of provisions. Beside this, he corrupted the principal Macedonians by his letters and emissaries; reproaching them for chusing for their sovereign a stranger, whose ancestors had always been subject to the Macedonians, while they expelled the friends and companions of Alexander. As the majority listened to these suggestions, Pyrrhus, fearing the

* The Athenians followed his advice, and drove out Demetrius's garrison.

event, withdrew with his Epirots and auxiliary forces, and so lost Macedonia in the same manner he had gained it. Kings, therefore, have no reason to blame the people for changing for interest, since in that they do but imitate their masters, who are patterns of treachery and perfidiousness, and who think that man most capable of serving them who pays the least regard to honesty.

When Pyrrhus had thus retired into Epirus, and left Macedonia, he had a fair occasion given him by fortune to enjoy himself in quiet, and to govern his own kingdom in peace. But he was persuaded, that neither to annoy others, nor to be annoyed by them, was a life insufferably languishing and tedious. Like Achilles, he could not endure inaction :

*He pined in dull repose : his heart indignant
Bade the scene change to war, to wounds and death.*

His anxiety for fresh employment was relieved as follows : The Romans were then at war with the Tarentines. The latter were not able to support the dispute, and yet the bold and turbulent harangues of their leading men would not suffer them to put an end to it. They resolved therefore, to call in Pyrrhus, and put their forces under his command ; there being no other prince who had then so much leisure, or was so able a general. The oldest and most sensible of the citizens opposed this measure, but were overborne by the noise and violence of the multitude ; and when they saw this, they no longer attended the assemblies. But there was a worthy man, named Meton, who, on the day that the decree was to be ratified, after the people had taken their seats, came into the assembly, with an air of intoxication, having, like persons in that condition, a withered garland upon his head, a torch in his hand, and a woman playing on the flute before him. As no decorum can be well observed by a crowd of people in a free state, some clapped their hands, others laughed;

laughed; but nobody pretended to stop him. On the contrary, they called upon the woman to play, and him to come forward and sing. Silence being made, he said, "Men of Tarentum, ye do extremely well, to suffer those who have a mind to it, to play and be merry, while they may; and if you are wise, you will all now enjoy the same liberty: for you must have other business and another kind of life, when Pyrrhus once enters your city." This address made a great impression upon the Tarentines, and a whisper of assent run through the assembly. But some fearing that they should be delivered up to the Romans, if peace were made, reproached the people with so tamely suffering themselves to be made a jest of, and insulted by a drunkard; and then turning upon Meton, they thrust him out. The decree thus being confirmed, they sent ambassadors to Epirus, not only in the name of the Tarentines, but of the other Greeks in Italy, with presents to Pyrrhus, and orders to tell him, "That they wanted a general of ability and character. As for troops he would find a large supply of them upon the spot, from the Lucanians, the Messapians, the Samnites and Tarentines, to the amount of twenty thousand horse, and three hundred and fifty thousand foot." These promises not only elevated Pyrrhus, but raised in the Epirots a strong inclination to the war.

There was then at the court of Pyrrhus, a Thessalian named Cineas, a man of sound sense, and who having been a disciple of Demosthenes, was the only orator of his time that presented his hearers with a lively image of the force and spirit of that great master. This man had devoted himself to Pyrrhus, and in all the embassies he was employed in, confirmed that saying of Euripides,

The gates that steel exclude, resistless eloquence shall enter.

This

This made Pyrrhus say, "that Cineas had gained him more cities by his address, than he had won by his arms:" and he continued to heap honours and employments upon him. Cineas now seeing Pyrrhus intent upon his preparations for Italy, took an opportunity, when he saw him at leisure, to draw him into the following conversation. "The Romans have the reputation of being excellent soldiers, and have the command of many warlike nations; if it please heaven that we conquer them, what use, Sir, shall we make of our victory?" "Cineas," replied the king, "your question answers itself. When the Romans are once subdued, there is no town, whether Greek or Barbarian, in all the country, that will dare oppose us; but we shall immediately be masters of all Italy, whose greatness, power, and importance no man knows better than you." Cineas, after a short pause, continued, "But, after we have conquered Italy, what shall we do next, Sir?" Pyrrhus not yet perceiving his drift, replied, "There is Sicily very near, and stretches out her arms to receive us, a fruitful and populous island, and easy to be taken. For Agathocles was no sooner gone, than faction and anarchy prevailed among her cities, and every thing is kept in confusion by her turbulent demagogues." "What you say, my prince," said Cineas, "is very probable: but is the taking of Sicily to conclude our expeditions?" "Far from it," answered Pyrrhus, "for if heaven grant us success in this, that success shall only be the prelude to greater things. Who can forbear Lybia and Carthage, then within reach; of which Agathocles, even when he fled in a clandestine manner from Syracuse, and crossed the sea with a few ships only, had almost made himself master. And when we have made such conquests, who can pretend to say, that any of our enemies, who are now so insolent, will think of resisting us?" "To be sure," said Cineas, "they will

“ will not : for it is clear that so much power will
“ enable you to recover Macedonia, and to establish
“ yourself uncontested sovereign of Greece. But
“ when we have conquered all, what are we to do
“ then ? ” “ Why, then, my friend,” said Pyrrhus,
laughing, “ we will take our ease, and drink and be
“ merry,” Cineas, having brought him thus far,
replied, “ And what hinders us from drinking and
“ taking our ease now, when we have already those
“ things in our hands ; at which we propose to arrive
“ through seas of blood, through infinite toils and
“ dangers, through innumerable calamities, which
“ we must both cause and suffer ? ”

This discourse of Cineas gave Pyrrhus pain, but produced no reformation. He saw the certain happiness which he gave up, but was not able to forego the hopes that flattered his desires. In the first place, therefore, he sent Cineas to Tarentum, with three thousand foot : from whence there arrived, soon after, a great number of galleys, transports, and flat-bottomed boats, on board of which he put twenty elephants, three thousand horse, twenty thousand foot, two thousand archers, and five hundred slingers. When all was ready, he set sail ; but as soon as he was got into the midst of the Ionian, he was attacked by a violent wind at north, which was unusual at that season. The storm raged terribly, but by the skill and extraordinary efforts of his pilots and mariners, his ships made the Italian shore, with infinite labour, and beyond all expectation. The rest of the fleet could not hold their course, but were dispersed far and wide. Some of the ships were quite beaten off from the coast of Italy, and driven into the Libyan and Sicilian sea : others, not being able to double the cape of Japygia, were overtaken by the night ; and, a great and boisterous sea driving them upon a difficult and rocky shore, they were all in the utmost distress. The king's ship, indeed, by its size and strength,

strength, resisted the force of the waves, while the wind blew from the sea: but that coming about, and blowing directly from the shore, the ship, as she stood with her head against it, was in danger of opening by the shocks she received. And yet to be driven off again into a tempestuous sea, while the wind continually shifted from point to point, seemed the most dreadful case of all. In this extremity Pyrrhus threw himself overboard, and was immediately followed by his friends and guards, who strove which should give him the best assistance. But the darkness of the night, and the roaring and resistance of the waves, which beat upon the shore, and were driven back with equal violence, rendered it extremely difficult to save him. At last, by day-break the wind being considerably fallen, with much struggle he got ashore, greatly weakened in body, but with a strength and firmness of mind which bravely combated the distress. At the same time the Messapians, on whose coast he was cast, ran down to give them all the succour in their power. They also met with some other of his vessels that had weathered the storm, in which were a small number of horse, not quite two thousand foot, and two elephants. With these Pyrrhus marched to Tarentum.

When Cincas was informed of this, he drew out his forces, and went to meet him. Pyrrhus, upon his arrival at Tarentum, did not chuse to have recourse to compulsion at first, nor to do any thing against the inclination of the inhabitants, till his ships were safe arrived, and the greatest part of his forces collected. But, after this, seeing the Tarentines, so far from being in a condition to defend others, that they could not even defend themselves, except they were driven to it by necessity; and that they sat still at home, and spent their time about the baths, or in feasting and idle talk, as expecting that he would fight for them; he shut up the places of exercise and the walks, where they used, as they

fauntered along, to conduct the war with words. He also put a stop to their unseasonable entertainments, revels and diversions. Instead of these, he called them to arms, and in his musters and reviews was severe and inexorable: so that many of them quitted the place; for being unaccustomed to be under command, they called that a slavery which was not a life of pleasure.

He now received intelligence that Laevinus, the Roman consul, was coming against him with a great army, and ravaging Lucania by the way. And though the confederates were not come up, yet looking upon it as a disgrace to sit still and see the enemy approach still nearer, he took the field with the troops he had. But first he sent a herald to the Romans, with proposals, before they came to extremities, to terminate their differences amicably with the Greeks in Italy, by taking him for the mediator and umpire. Laevinus answered, "That the Romans neither accepted Pyrrhus as a mediator, nor feared him as an enemy." Whereupon, he marched forward, and encamped upon the plain between the cities of Pandosia and Heraclea: and having notice that the Romans were near, and lay on the other side of the river Siris, he rode up to the river to take a view of them. When he saw the order of their troops, the appointment of their watches, and the regularity of their whole encampment, he was struck with admiration, and said to a friend that was by, "Me-
" gacles, the disposition of these Barbarians has no-
" thing of the Barbarian in it; we shall see whether
" the rest will answer it." He now became solicitous for the event, and determining to wait for the allies, set a guard upon the river, to oppose the Romans, if they should endeavour to pass it. The Romans, on their part, hastening to prevent the coming up of those forces which he had resolved to wait for, attempted the passage. The infantry took to the fords, and the cavalry got over wherever they could;

could : so that the Greeks were afraid of being surrounded, and retreated to their main body.

Pyrrhus greatly concerned at this, ordered his foot officers to draw up the forces, and to stand to their arms ; while he advanced with the horse, who were about three thousand, in hopes of finding the Romans yet busied in the passage, and dispersed without any order. But when he saw a great number of shields glittering above the water, and the horse preserving their ranks as they passed, he closed his own ranks and began the attack. Besides his being distinguished by the beauty and lustre of his arms, which were of very curious fabric, he performed acts of valour worthy the great reputation he had acquired. For, though he exposed his person in the hottest of the engagement, and charged with the greatest vigour, he was never in the least disturbed, nor lost his presence of mind ; but gave his orders as coolly as if he had been out of the action, and moved to this side or that as occasion required, to support his men where he saw them maintaining an unequal fight.

Leonatus of Macedon observed an Italian horseman very intent upon Pyrrhus, changing his post as he did, and regulating all his motions by his. Whereupon he rode up, and said to him, " Do you see, Sir, that Barbarian upon the black horse with white feet ? he seems to meditate some great and dreadful design. He keeps you in his eye ; full of fire and spirit, he singles you out, and takes no notice of any body else. Therefore be on your guard against him." Pyrrhus answered, " It is impossible, Leonatus, to avoid our destiny. But neither this nor any other Italian shall have much satisfaction in engaging with me." While they were yet speaking, the Italian levelled his spear, and spurred his horse against Pyrrhus. He missed the king, but run his horse through, as Leonatus did the Italian's the same moment, so that both horses

fell together. Pyrrhus was carried off by his friends that gathered round him, and killed the Italian, who fought to the very last. This brave man had the command of a troop of horse; Farentum was the place of his birth, and his name Oplacus.

This made Pyrrhus more cautious. And now seeing his cavalry give ground, he sent his infantry orders to advance, and formed them as soon as they came up. Then giving his robe and his arms to Megacles one of his friends, he disguised himself in his, and proceeded to the charge. The Romans received him with great firmness, and the success of the battle remained long undecided. It is even said, that each army was broken and gave way seven times, and rallied as often. He changed his arms very seasonably, for that saved his life; but at the same time it had nearly ruined his affairs, and lost him the victory. Many aimed at Megacles; but the man who first wounded and brought him to the ground, was named Dexous. Dexous seized his helmet and his robe, and rode up to Laevinus, shewing the spoils, and crying out that he had slain Pyrrhus. The spoils being passed from rank to rank, as it were in triumph, the Roman army shouted for joy, while that of the Greeks was struck with grief and consternation. This held, till Pyrrhus apprised of what had happened, rode about the army uncovered, stretching out his hand to his soldiers, and giving them to know him by his voice. At last the Romans were worsted, chiefly by means of the elephants. For the horses, before they came near them, were frightened, and ran back with their riders; and Pyrrhus commanding his Thessalian cavalry to fall upon them while in this disorder, they were routed with great slaughter. Dionysius writes, that near fifteen thousand Romans fell in this battle; but Hieronymus makes the number only seven thousand. On Pyrrhus's side, Dionysius says, there were thirteen thousand killed; Hieronymus not quite four thousand.

land. Among these, however, were the most valuable of his friends and officers, whose services he had made great use of, and in whom he had placed the highest confidence.

Pyrrhus immediately entered the Roman camp, which he found deserted. He gained over many cities which had been in alliance with Rome, and laid waste the territories of others. Nay, he advanced to within thirty-seven miles of Rome itself. The Lucanians and the Samnites joined him after the battle, and were reprov'd for their delay; but it was plain that he was greatly elevated and delighted, with having defeated so powerful an army of Romans with the assistance of the Tarentines only.

The Romans, on this occasion, did not take the command from Laevinus, though Caius Fabricius is reported to have said, "That the Romans were not overcome by the Epirots, but Laevinus by Pyrrhus:" intimating, that the defeat was owing to the inferiority of the general, not of his troops. Then raising new levies, filling up their legions, and talking in a lofty and menacing tone about the war, they struck Pyrrhus with amazement. He thought proper, therefore, to send an embassy to them first, to try whether they were disposed to peace; being satisfied that to take the city, and make an absolute conquest, was an undertaking of too much difficulty to be effected by such an army as his was at that time; whereas if he could bring them to terms of accommodation, and conclude a peace with them, it would be very glorious for him after such a victory.

Cineas, who was sent with this commission, applied to the great men, and sent them and their wives presents in his master's name. But they all refused them; the women as well as the men declaring, "That when Rome had publicly ratified a treaty with the king, they should then on their parts be ready to give him every mark of their friendship

“and respect.” And though Cineas made a very engaging speech to the senate, and used many arguments to induce them to close with him, yet they lent not a willing ear to his propositions, notwithstanding that Pyrrhus offered to restore without ransom the prisoners he had made in the battle, and promised to assist them in the conquest of Italy, desiring nothing in return but their friendship for himself, and security for the Tarentines. Some, indeed, seemed inclined to peace, urging that they had already lost a great battle, and had still a greater to expect, since Pyrrhus was joined by several nations in Italy. There was then an illustrious Roman, Appius Claudius by name, who on account of his great age and the loss of his sight, had declined all attendance to public business. But when he heard of the embassy from Pyrrhus, and the report prevailed that the senate was going to vote for the peace, he could not contain himself, but ordered his servants to take him up, and carry him in his chair through the forum to the senate-house. When he was brought to the door, his sons and his sons-in-law, received him, and led him into the senate. A respectful silence was observed by the whole body on his appearance, and he delivered his sentiments in the following terms: “Hitherto I have regarded my blindness
“as a misfortune, but now, Romans, I wish I had been
“as deaf as I am blind. For then I should not have
“heard of your shameful counsels and decrees so
“ruinous to the glory of Rome. Where now are
“your speeches so much echoed about the world,
“that if Alexander the Great had come into Italy,
“when we were young, and your fathers in the vigour of their age, he would not now be celebrated
“as invincible, but either by his flight or his fall
“would have added to the glory of Rome? you
“now shew the vanity and folly of that boast, while
“you dread the Chaonians and Molossians, who
“were ever a prey to the Macedonians, and tremble
“at

“ at the name of Pyrrhus, who has all his life been
“ paying his court to one of the guards of that
“ Alexander. At present he wanders about Italy,
“ not so much to succour the Greeks here, as to
“ avoid his enemies at home; and he promises to
“ procure us the empire of this country with those
“ forces, which could not enable him to keep a small
“ part of Macedonia. Do not expect, then, to get
“ rid of him, by entering into alliance with him.
“ That step will only open a door to many invaders.
“ For who is there that will not despise you, and
“ think you an easy conquest, if Pyrrhus not only
“ escapes unpunished for his insolence, but gains the
“ Tarentines and Samnites, as a reward for insulting
“ the Romans?”

Appius had no sooner done speaking, than they voted unanimously for the war, and dismissed Cineas with this answer, “ That when Pyrrhus had quitted Italy, they would enter upon a treaty of friendship and alliance with him, if he desired it: but while he continued there in a hostile manner, they would prosecute the war against him with all their force, though he should have defeated a thousand Laevinuses.”

It is said, that Cineas, while he was upon this business, took great pains to observe the manners of the Romans, and to examine into the nature of their government. And when he had learned what he desired by conversing with their great men, he made a faithful report of all to Pyrrhus; and told him, among the rest, “ That the senate appeared to him an assembly of kings; and as to the people, they were so numerous, that he was afraid he had to do with a Lernaean hydra.” For the consul had already an army on foot twice as large as the former, and had left multitudes behind in Rome of a proper age for enlisting, and sufficient to form many such armies.

After this, Fabricius came ambassador to Pyrrhus to treat about the ransom and exchange of prisoners.

Fabricius, as Cineas informed Pyrrhus, was highly valued by the Romans for probity and martial abilities, but he was extremely poor. Pyrrhus received him with particular distinction, and privately offered him gold; not for any base purpose, but he begged him to accept of it as a pledge of friendship and hospitality. Fabricius refusing the present, Pyrrhus pressed him no farther: but the next day wanting to surprise him, and knowing that he had never seen an elephant, he ordered the biggest he had, to be armed and placed behind a curtain in the room where they were to be in conference. Accordingly this was done, and upon a sign given, the curtain drawn; and the elephant raising his trunk over the head of Fabricius, made a horrid and frightful noise. Fabricius turned about, without being in the least discomposed, and said to Pyrrhus, smiling, "Neither your gold yesterday, nor your beast to-day, has made any impression upon me."

In the evening, the conversation at table turned upon many subjects, but chiefly upon Greece and the Grecian philosophers. This led Cineas to mention Epicurus*, and to give some account of the opinions of his sect, concerning the gods and civil government. He said, they placed the chief happiness of man in pleasure, and avoided all concern in the administration of affairs as the bane of a happy life; and that they attributed to the deity neither benevolence nor anger, but maintained, that, far removed from the care of human affairs, he passed his time in ease and inactivity, and was totally immersed in pleasure. While he was yet speaking, Fabricius cried out, "O heavens! may Pyrrhus and the Samnites adopt these opinions as long as they are at war with the Ro-

* Epicurus was then living. The doctrines of that philosopher were greatly in vogue in Rome, just before the ruin of the commonwealth.

“mans!” Pyrrhus admiring the noble sentiments and principles of Fabricius, was more desirous than ever of establishing a friendship with Rome, instead of continuing the war. And taking Fabricius aside, he pressed him to mediate a peace, and then go and settle at his court, where he should be his most intimate companion, and the chief of his generals. Fabricius answered in a low voice, “That, Sir, would be no advantage to you: for those who now honour and admire you, should they once have experience of me, would rather chuse to be governed by me than by you.” Such was the character of Fabricius.

Pyrrhus, far from being offended at this answer, or taking it like a tyrant, made his friends acquainted with the magnanimity of Fabricius, and entrusted the prisoners to him only, on condition that if the senate did not agree to a peace, they should be sent back, after they had embraced their relations, and celebrated the Saturnalia.

After this, Fabricius being consul *, an unknown person came to his camp with a letter from the king’s physician, who offered to take off Pyrrhus by poison, and so end the war without any farther hazard to the Romans, provided they gave him a proper compensation for his services. Fabricius detested the man’s villany; and, having brought his colleague into the same sentiments, sent dispatches to Pyrrhus without losing a moment’s time, to caution him against the treason. The letter ran thus:

“Caius Fabricius and Quintus Æmilius, consuls,

“to king Pyrrhus, health.

“It appears that you judge very ill both of your friends and enemies. For you will find by this letter which was sent to us, that you are at war with men of virtue and honour, and trust knaves

* Two hundred and seventy-seven years before Christ.

“ and

“ and villains. Nor is it out of kindness that we
 “ give you this information ; but we do it, lest your
 “ death should bring a disgrace upon us, and we
 “ should seem to have put a period to the war by
 “ treachery, when we could not do it by valour.”

Pyrrhus having read the letter, and detected the treason, punished the physician ; and, to shew his gratitude to Fabricius and the Romans, he delivered up the prisoners without ransom, and sent Cineas again to negotiate a peace. The Romans, unwilling to receive a favour from an enemy, or a reward for not consenting to an ill thing, did indeed receive the prisoners at his hands, but sent him an equal number of Tarentines and Samnites. As to peace and friendship, they would not hear any proposals about it, till Pyrrhus should have laid down his arms, drawn his forces out of Italy, and returned to Epirus in the same ships in which he came.

His affairs now requiring another battle, he assembled his army, and marched and attacked the Romans near Asculum. The ground was very rough and uneven, and marshy * also towards the river, so that it was extremely inconvenient for the cavalry, and quite prevented the elephants from acting with the infantry. For this reason he had a great number of men killed and wounded, and might have been entirely defeated, had not night put an end to the battle. Next day, contriving, by an act of generalship, to engage upon even ground, where his elephants might come at the enemy, he seized in time that difficult post where they fought the day before. Then he planted a number of archers and slingers among his elephants ; thickened his other ranks ; and moved forward in good order, though with great force and impetuosity against the Romans.

The Romans, who had not now the advantage of ground for attacking and retreating as they pleased,

* ὑλῶδες signifies *marshy*, as well as *woody*.

were obliged to fight upon the plain, man to man. They hastened to break the enemy's infantry, before the elephants came up, and made prodigious efforts with their swords against the pikes; not regarding themselves or the wounds they received, but only looking where they might strike and slay. After a long dispute, however, the Romans were forced to give way; which they did first where Pyrrhus fought in person; for they could not resist the fury of his attack. Indeed, it was the force and weight of the elephants, which put them quite to the rout. The Roman valour being of no use against those fierce creatures, the troops thought it wiser to give way, as to an overwhelming torrent or earthquake, than to fall in a fruitless opposition, when they could gain no advantage, though they suffered the greatest extremities. And they had not far to fly before they gained their camp. Hieronymus says the Romans lost six thousand men in the action, and Pyrrhus, according to the account of his own commentaries, lost three thousand five hundred. Nevertheless, Dionysius does not tell us, that there were two battles at Asculum, nor that it was clear that the Romans were defeated; but that the action lasted till sun-set, and then the combatants parted unwillingly, Pyrrhus being wounded in the arm with a javelin, and the Samnites having plundered his baggage; and that the number of the slain, counting the loss on both sides, amounted to above fifteen thousand men. When they had all quitted the field, and Pyrrhus was congratulated on the victory, he said, "Such another victory, and we are undone." For he had lost great part of the forces which he brought with him, and all his friends and officers, except a very small number. He had no others to send for, to supply their place, and he found his confederates here very cold and spiritless. Whereas the Romans filled up their legions with ease and dispatch, from an inexhaustible fountain which they had at home; and
their

their defeats were so far from discouraging them, that indignation gave them fresh strength and ardour for the war.

Amidst these difficulties, new hopes, as vain as the former, offered themselves to Pyrrhus, and enterprises which distracted him in the choice. On one side, ambassadors came from Sicily, who proposed to put Syracuse, Agrigentum, and the city of the Leontines in his hands, and desired him to drive the Carthaginians out of the island, and free it from tyrants: and on the other side, news was brought him from Greece, that Ptolemy Ceraunus was slain in battle by the Gauls, and that this would be a seasonable juncture for him to offer himself to the Macedonians who wanted a king *. On this occasion he complained greatly of fortune, for offering him two such glorious opportunities of action at once: and, afflicted to think that in embracing one, he must necessarily give up the other, he was a long time perplexed and doubtful which to fix upon. At last the expedition to Sicily appearing to him the more important, by reason of its nearness to Africa, he determined to go thither, and immediately dispatched Cineas before him, according to custom, to treat with the cities on his behalf. He placed, however, a strong garrison in Tarentum, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the people; who insisted that he should either fulfil the purpose he came for, by staying to assist them effectually in the Roman war, or, if he would be gone, to leave their city as he found it. But he gave them a severe answer, ordered them to be quiet and wait his time, and so set sail.

When he arrived in Sicily, he found every thing disposed agreeably to his hopes. The cities readily

* Ptolemy Ceraunus was slain three years before, during the consulate of Laevinus. After him the Macedonians had several kings in quick succession. All, therefore, that the letters could import, must be, that the Macedonians would prefer Pyrrhus to Antigonus, who at present was in possession.

put themselves in his hands: and whatever force was necessary, nothing at first made any considerable resistance to his arms. But with thirty thousand foot, two thousand five hundred horse, and two hundred sail of ships, he advanced against the Carthaginians, drove them before him, and ruined their province. Eryx was the strongest city in those parts, and the best provided with men for its defence; yet he resolved to take it by storm. As soon as his army was in readiness to give the assault, he armed himself at all points; and, advancing towards the walls, made a vow to Hercules of games and sacrifices in acknowledgment of the victory, if in that day's action he should distinguish himself before the Greeks in Sicily, in a manner that became his great descent and his fortunes. Then he ordered the signal to be given by sound of trumpet; and having driven the barbarians from the walls with his missive weapons, he planted the scaling-ladders, and was himself the first that mounted.

There he was attacked by a crowd of enemies, some of whom he drove back, others he pushed down from the wall on both sides; but the greatest part he slew with his sword, so that there was quite a rampart of dead bodies around him. In the mean time he himself received not the least harm, but appeared to his enemies in the awful character of some superior being; shewing on this occasion, that Homer spoke with judgment and knowledge, when he represented valour as the only virtue which discovers a divine energy, and those enthusiastic transports which raise a man above himself. When the city was taken, he offered a magnificent sacrifice to Hercules, and exhibited a variety of shows and games.

Of all the barbarians, those about Messina, who were called Mamertines, gave the Greeks the most trouble, and had subjected many of them to tribute. They were a numerous and warlike people, and thence had the appellation of Mamertines, which
in

in the Latin tongue signifies martial. But Pyrrhus seized the collectors of the tribute, and put them to death; and having defeated the Mamertines in a set battle, he destroyed many of their strong holds.

The Carthaginians were now inclined to peace, and offered him both money and ships, on condition that he granted them his friendship. But, having farther prospects, he made answer, that there was only one way to peace and friendship, which was, for the Carthaginians to evacuate Sicily, and make the Lybian sea the boundary between them and the Greeks. Elated with prosperity and his present strength, he thought of nothing but pursuing the hopes which first drew him into Sicily.

His first object now was Africa. He had vessels enough for his purpose, but he wanted mariners. And in the collecting of them he was far from proceeding with lenity and moderation: on the contrary, he carried it to the cities with a high hand and with great rigour, seconding his orders for a supply with force, and severely chastising those who disobeyed them. This was not the conduct which he had observed at first; for then he was gracious and affable to an extreme, placed an entire confidence in the people, and avoided giving them the least uneasiness. By these means he had gained their hearts. But now turning from a popular prince into a tyrant, his austerities drew upon him the imputation both of ingratitude and perfidiousness. Necessity, however, obliged them to furnish him with what he demanded, though they were little disposed to it. But what chiefly alienated their affections, was his behaviour to Thonon and Sostratus, two persons of the greatest authority in Syracuse. These were the men who first invited him into Sicily, who upon his arrival immediately put their city in his hands, and who had been the principal instruments of the great things he had done in the island. Yet his suspicions would neither let him take them with him, nor leave them behind

hind him. Sostratus took the alarm and fled. Whereupon Thonon was seized by Pyrrhus, who alleged that he was an accomplice with Sostratus, and put him to death. Then his affairs run to ruin, not gradually and by little and little, but all at once. The violent hatred which the cities conceived for him, led some of them to join the Carthaginians, and others the Mamertines. While he thus saw nothing around him but cabals, seditions, and insurrections, he received letters from the Samnites and Tarentines, who being quite driven out of the field, and with difficulty defending themselves within their walls, begged his assistance. This afforded a handsome pretence for his departure, without its being called a flight and an absolute giving up his affairs in Sicily. But the truth was, that no longer being able to hold the island, he quitted it, like a shattered ship, and threw himself again into Italy. It is reported, that, as he sailed away, he looked back upon the isle, and said to those about him, "What a field we leave the Carthaginians and Romans to exercise their arms in!" and his conjecture was soon after verified.

The Barbarians rose against him as he set sail; and being attacked by the Carthaginians on his passage, he lost many of his ships: with the remainder he gained the Italian shore. The Mamertines, to the number of ten thousand, had reached thither before him; and, though they were afraid to come to a pitched battle, yet they attacked and harassed him in the difficult passes, and put his whole army in disorder. He lost two elephants, and a considerable part of his rear was cut in pieces. But he immediately pushed from the van to their assistance, and risked his person in the boldest manner, against men trained by long practice to war, who fought with a spirit of resentment. In this dispute he received a wound in the head, which forced him to retire a little out of the battle, and animated the enemy still more. One of them, therefore, who was distinguished both by his

his size and arms, advanced before the lines, and with a loud voice called upon him to come forth if he was alive. Pyrrhus, incensed at this, returned with his guards, and, with a visage so fierce with anger, and so besmeared with blood, that it was dreadful to look upon, made his way through his battalions, notwithstanding their remonstrances. Thus rushing upon the Barbarian, he prevented his blow, and gave him such a stroke on the head with his sword, that, with the strength of his arm, and the excellent temper of the weapon, he cleaved him quite down, and in one moment the parts fell asunder. This atchievement stopped the course of the Barbarians, who were struck with admiration and amazement at Pyrrhus, as at a superior Being. He made the rest of his march, therefore, without disturbance, and arrived at Tarentum with twenty thousand foot and three thousand horse. Then taking with him the best troops that he found there, he advanced immediately against the Romans, who were encamped in the country of the Samnites.

The affairs of the Samnites were run to ruin, and their spirits sunk, because they had been beaten in several battles by the Romans. There remained also in their hearts some resentment against Pyrrhus on account of his leaving them, to go to Sicily, so that few of them repaired to his standard. The forces that he had, he divided into two bodies, one of which he detached into Lucania, to keep one of the consuls* employed, and hinder him from assisting his colleague: with the other corps he marched in person against the other consul Manius Curius, who lay safely entrenched near the city of Beneventum, and declined fighting, as well in expectation of the succours from Lucania, as on account of his being deterred from action by the augurs and soothsayers.

* Aulus Cornelius Lentulus.

Pyrrhus hastening to attack him before he could be joined by his colleague, took the choicest of his troops and the most warlike of his elephants, and pushed forward in the night to surprise his camp. But as he had a long circuit to take, and the roads were entangled with trees and bushes, his lights failed, and numbers of his men lost their way. Thus the night escaped. At day-break he was discovered by the enemy descending from the heights, which caused no small disorder in their camp. Manius, however, finding the sacrifices auspicious, and the time pressing, issued out of his trenches, attacked the vanguard of the enemy, and put them to flight. This spread a consternation through their whole army, so that many of them were killed, and some of the elephants taken. On the other hand, the success led Manius to try a pitched battle. Engaging, therefore, in the open field, one of his wings defeated one of the enemy's; but the other was borne down by the elephants, and driven back to the trenches. In this exigency he called for those troops that were left to guard the camp, who were all fresh men and well-armed. These, as they descended from their advantageous situation, pierced the elephants with their javelins, and forced them to turn their backs; and those creatures rushing upon their own battalions, threw them into the greatest confusion and disorder. This put the victory in the hands of the Romans, and empire together with the victory. For, by the courage exerted, and the great actions performed this day, they acquired a loftiness of sentiment, an enlargement of power, with the reputation of being invincible, which soon gained them all Italy, and Sicily a little after.

Thus Pyrrhus fell from his hopes of Italy and Sicily, after he had wasted six years in these expeditions. It is true, he was not successful; but amidst all his defeats he preserved his courage unconquerable, and was reputed to excel, in military experi-

ence and personal prowess, all the princes of his time. But what he gained by his achievements, he lost by vain hopes; his desire of something absent, never suffered him effectually to persevere in a present pursuit. Hence it was that Antigonus compared him to a gamester, who makes many good throws at dice, but knows not how to make the best of his game.

He returned to Epirus with eight thousand foot and five hundred horse; but not having funds to maintain them, he sought for a war which might answer that end. And being joined by a body of Gauls, he threw himself into Macedonia, where Antigonus the son of Demetrius reigned at that time. His design was only to pillage and carry off booty; but having taken many cities, and drawn over two thousand of Antigonus's men, he enlarged his views, and marched against the king. Coming up with him in a narrow pass, he put his whole army in disorder. The Gauls however, who composed Antigonus's rear, being a numerous body, made a gallant resistance. The dispute was sharp, but at last most of them were cut in pieces; and they who had the charge of the elephants, being surrounded, delivered up both themselves and the beasts. After so great an advantage, Pyrrhus following his fortune rather than any rational plan, pushed against the Macedonian phalanx, now struck with terror and confusion at their loss. And perceiving that they refused to engage with him, he stretched out his hand to their commanders and other officers, at the same time calling them all by their names; by which means he drew over the enemy's infantry. Antigonus, therefore, was forced to fly: he persuaded, however, some of the maritime towns to remain under his government.

Amidst so many instances of success, Pyrrhus, concluding that his exploit against the Gauls was far the most glorious, consecrated the most splendid and
valuable

valuable of the spoils in the temple of Minerva Itonis, with this inscription,

*These spoils that Pyrrhus on the martial plain
Snatch'd from the vanquish'd Gaul, Itonian Pallas,
He consecrates to thee—If from his throne
Antigonus deserted fled, and ruin
Pursued the sword of Pyrrhus---'tis no wonder---
From Æacus he sprung.*

After the battle he soon recovered the cities. When he had made himself master of Ægæe, among other hardships put upon the inhabitants, he left among them a garrison draughted from those Gauls who served under him. The Gauls of all men are the most covetous of money; and they were no sooner put in possession of the town, than they broke open the tombs of the kings who were buried there, plundered the treasures, and insolently scattered their bones. Pyrrhus passed the matter very slightly over; whether it was that the affairs he had upon his hands, obliged him to put off the enquiry, or whether he was afraid of the Gauls, and did not dare to punish them. The connivance, however, was much censured by the Macedonians.

His interest was not well established among them, nor had he any good prospect of its security, when he began to entertain new visionary hopes: and in ridicule of Antigonus, he said, "He wondered at his impudence, in not laying aside the purple, and taking the habit of a private person."

About this time, Cleonymus, the Spartan, came to entreat him that he would march to Lacedaemon, and he lent a willing ear to his request. Cleonymus was of the blood royal; but as he seemed to be of a violent temper, and inclined to arbitrary power, he was neither loved nor trusted by the Spartans, and Areus was appointed to the throne. This was an old complaint which he had against the citizens in

general. But to this we must add, that when advanced in years, he had married a young woman of great beauty, named Chelidonis, who was of the royal family, and daughter to Leotychides. Chelidonis entertaining a violent passion for Acrotatus the son of Areus, who was both young and handsome, rendered the match not only uneasy but disgraceful to Cleonymus who was miserably in love: for there was not a man in Sparta who did not know how much he was despised by his wife. These domestic misfortunes, added to his public ones, provoked him to apply to Pyrrhus, who marched to Sparta with twenty-five thousand foot, two thousand horse, and twenty-four elephants. These great preparations made it evident at one view, that Pyrrhus did not come to gain Sparta for Cleonymus, but Peloponnesus for himself. He made, indeed, very different professions to the Lacedaemonians, who sent an embassy to him at Megalopolis: for he told them that he was only come to set free the cities which were in subjection to Antigonus; and, what is more extraordinary, that he fully intended, if nothing happened to hinder it, to send his younger sons to Sparta, for a Lacedaemonian education, that they might in this respect have the advantage of all other kings and princes.

With these pretences he amused those that came to meet him on his march; but as soon as he set foot in Laconia, he began to plunder and ravage it. And upon the ambassador representing that he commenced hostilities without a previous declaration of war, he said, "And do we not know that you Spartans never declared beforehand what measures you are going to take?" to which a Spartan, named Mandricidas, who was in company, made answer in his laconic dialect, "If thou art a god, thou wilt do us no harm, because we have done thee none; if thou art a man, perhaps we may find a better man than thee."

In the mean time he moved towards Lacedaemon, and was advised by Cleonymus to give the assault immediately upon his arrival. But Pyrrhus, as we are told, fearing that his soldiers would plunder the city if they took it by night, put him off, and said, they would proceed to the assault the next day. For he knew there were but few men within the city, and those unprepared, by reason of his sudden approach; and that Areus the king was absent, being gone to Crete to succour the Gortynians. The contemptible idea which Pyrrhus conceived of its weakness and want of men, was the principal thing that saved the city. For supposing that he should not find the least resistance, he ordered his tents to be pitched, and sat quietly down; while the Helots and friends of Cleonymus busied themselves in adorning and preparing his house, in expectation that Pyrrhus would sup with him there that evening.

Night being come, the Lacedaemonians resolved, in the first place, to send off their women to Crete, but they strongly opposed it: and Archidamia entering the senate with a sword in her hand, complained of the mean opinion they entertained of the women, if they imagined they would survive the destruction of Sparta. In the next place they determined to draw a trench parallel to the enemy's camp, and at each end of it to sink waggons into the ground as deep as the naves of the wheels, that so being firmly fixed, they might stop the course of the elephants. As soon as the work was begun, both matrons and maids came and joined them; the former with their robes tucked up, and the latter in their under-garments only, to assist the older sort of men. They advised those that were intended for the fight, to repose themselves, and in the mean time they undertook to finish a third part of the trench, which they effected before morning. This trench was in breadth six cubits, in depth four, and eight hundred feet long, according to Phylarchus. Hieronymus makes it less.

At day-break the enemy was in motion, whereupon the women armed the youth with their own hands, and gave them the trench in charge, exhorting them to guard it well, and representing, "how delightful" it would be to conquer in the view of their country, or how glorious to expire in the arms of their mothers and their wives, when they had met their deaths as became Spartans." As for Chelidonis, she retired into her own apartment with a rope about her neck, determined to end her days by it, rather than fall into the hands of Cleonymus, if the city were taken.

Pyrrhus now pressed forward with his infantry against the Spartans, who waited for him under a rampart of shields. But, besides that the ditch was scarcely passable, he found that there was no firm footing on the sides of it for his soldiers, because of the looseness of the fresh earth. His son Ptolemy seeing this, fetched a compass about the trench with two thousand Gauls and a select body of Chaonians, and endeavoured to open a passage on the quarter of the waggons. But these were so deep fixed and close locked, that they not only obstructed their passage, but made it difficult for the Spartans to come up and make a close defence. The Gauls were now beginning to drag out the wheels and draw the waggons into the river, when young Acrotatus perceiving the danger, traversed the city with three hundred men, and by the advantage of some hollow ways surrounded Ptolemy, not being seen till he began the attack upon his rear. Ptolemy was now forced to face about, and stand upon the defensive. In the confusion many of his soldiers running foul upon each other, either tumbled into the ditch, or fell under the waggons. At last, after a long dispute and great effusion of blood, they were entirely routed. The old men and the women saw this exploit of Acrotatus: and as he returned through the city to his post, covered with blood, bold, and elated with

with his victory, he appeared to the Spartan women taller and more graceful than ever, and they could not help envying Chelidonis such a lover. Nay, some of the old men followed and cried out, "Go, Acrotatus, and enjoy Chelidonis: and may your offspring be worthy of Sparta!"

The dispute was more obstinate where Pyrrhus fought in person. Many of the Spartans distinguished themselves in the action, and, among the rest, Phyllius made a glorious stand. He slew numbers that endeavoured to force a passage, and when he found himself ready to faint with the many wounds he had received, he gave up his post to one of the officers that was near him, and retired to die in the midst of his own party, that the enemy might not get his body in their power.

Night parted the combatants; and Pyrrhus, as he lay in his tent, had this dream: he thought * he darted lightning upon Lacedaemon, which set all the city on fire, and that the sight filled him with joy. The transport awaking him, he ordered his officers to put their men under arms! and to some of his friends he related his vision, from which he assured himself that he should take the city by storm. The thing was received with admiration and a general assent! but it did not please Lyfimachus. He said, that, as no foot is to tread on places that are struck by lightning, so the deity by this might presignify to Pyrrhus, that the city should remain inaccessible to him. Pyrrhus answered, "These visions may serve as amusements for the vulgar, but there is not any thing in the world more uncertain and obscure.

* Some, instead of *αὐτὸς* read *αὐτῷ*; and then the English will run thus, *He thought that an eagle darted lightning, &c.* But if that reading be preferred, because the eagle bore Jupiter's thunder, and Pyrrhus had the name of *Eagle*, it ought to take place in the last member of the sentence too, and that should be rendered, *the eagle rejoiced at the sight.*

“ While, then, you have your weapons in your hands,
 “ remember, my friends,

** The best of omens is the cause of Pyrrhus.”*

So saying, he arose, and, as soon as it was light, renewed the attack. The Lacedaemonians stood upon their defence with an alacrity and spirit above their strength : and the women attended, supplying them with arms, giving bread and drink to such as wanted it, and taking care of the wounded. The Macedonians then attempted to fill up the ditch, bringing great quantities of materials, and throwing them upon the arms and bodies of the dead. The Lacedaemonians, on their part redoubled their efforts against them. But all on a sudden Pyrrhus appeared on their side of the trench, where the waggons had been planted to stop the passage, advancing at full speed towards the city. The soldiers who had the charge of that post cried out, and the women fled with loud shrieks and wailings. In the mean time Pyrrhus was pushing on, and overthrowing all that opposed him. But his horse receiving a wound in the belly from a Cretan arrow, ran away, and plunging in the pains of death, threw him upon steep and slippery ground. As his friends pressed towards him in great confusion, the Spartans came boldly up, and, making good use of their arrows, drove them all back. Hereupon Pyrrhus put an entire stop to the action, thinking the Spartans would abate of their vigour, now they were almost all wounded, and such great numbers killed. But the fortune of Sparta, whether she was satisfied with the trial she had of the unassisted valour of her sons, or whether she was willing to shew her power to retrieve the most desperate circumstances, just as the hopes of the Spartans were beginning to expire, brought to their relief from Corinth, Aminius the Phocæan, one of Antigonus's officers, with an army of strangers ; and they

** Parody of a line in Hector's speech, Il. xii.*

had

had no sooner entered the town, but Areus their king arrived from Crete with two thousand men more. The women now retired immediately to their houses, thinking it needless to concern themselves any farther in the war: the old men too, who notwithstanding their age, had been forced to bear arms, were dismissed, and the new supplies put in their place.

These two reinforcements to Sparta served only to animate the courage of Pyrrhus, and make him more ambitious to take the town. Finding, however, that he could effect nothing, after a series of losses and ill success he quitted the siege, and began to collect booty from the country, intending to pass the winter there. But fate is unavoidable. There happened at that time a strong contention at Argos, between the parties of Aristeas and Aristippus; and as Aristippus appeared to have a connection with Antigonus, Aristeas, to prevent him, called in Pyrrhus. Pyrrhus, whose hopes grew as fast as they were cut off, who, if he met with success, only considered it as a step to greater things, and if with disappointment, endeavoured to compensate it, by some new advantage, would neither let his victories nor losses put a period to his disturbing both the world and himself. He began his march, therefore, immediately for Argos. Areus, by frequent ambushes, and by possessing himself of the difficult passes, cut off many of the Gauls and Molossians who brought up his rear. In the sacrifice which Pyrrhus had offered, the liver was found without a head, and the diviner had thence forewarned him, that he was in danger of losing some person that was dear to him. But in the hurry and disorder of this unexpected attack, he forgot the menace from the victim, and ordered his son Ptolemy, with some of his guards, to the assistance of the rear, whilst he himself pushed on, and disengaged his main body from those dangerous passages. In the mean time Ptolemy met with a very warm

warm reception; for he was engaged by a select party of Lacedaemonians, under the command of Evalcus. In the heat of action, a Cretan of Aptera, named Oroesus, a man of remarkable strength and swiftness, came up with the young prince, as he was fighting with great gallantry, and with a blow on the side laid him dead upon the spot. As soon as he fell, his party turned their backs and fled. The Lacedaemonians pursued them, and in the ardour of victory, insensibly advancing into the open plain, got at a great distance from their infantry. Pyrrhus, who by this time had heard of the death of his son, and was greatly afflicted at it, drew out his Molossian horse, and charging at the head of them, fatiated himself with the blood of the Lacedaemonians. He always indeed appeared great and invincible in arms, but now, in point of courage and force, he outdid all his former exploits. Having found out Evalcus, he spurred his horse against him; but Evalcus inclining a little on one side, aimed a stroke at him which had like to have cut off his bridle hand. It happened, however, only to cut the reins, and Pyrrhus seizing the favourable moment, ran him through with his spear. Then springing from his horse, he fought on foot, and made a terrible havock of those brave Lacedaemonians who endeavoured to protect the body of Evalcus. The great loss which Sparta suffered was now owing purely to the ill-timed ambition of her leaders; for the war was at an end before the engagement.

Pyrrhus having thus sacrificed to the manes of his son, and celebrated a kind of funeral games for him, found that he had vented much of his grief in the fury of the combat, and marched more composed to Argos. Finding that Antigonus kept the high grounds adjoining to the plain, he encamped near the town of Nauplia. Next day he sent a herald to Antigonus, with a challenge, in abusive terms, to come down into the field, and fight with him for the kingdom.

kingdom. Antigonus answered, "Time is the weapon that I use, as much as the sword; and if Pyrrhus is weary of his life, there are many ways to end it." To both the kings there came ambassadors from Argos, intreating them to retire, and so prevent that city from being subjected to either, which had a friendship for them both. Antigonus agreed to the overture, and sent his son to the Argives as an hostage. Pyrrhus at the same time promised to retire, but sending no hostage, he was much suspected.

Amidst these transactions, Pyrrhus was alarmed with a great and tremendous prodigy. For the heads of the sacrifice-oxen, when severed from the bodies, were seen to thrust out their tongues, and lick up their own gore. And in Argos the priestesses of Apollo Lycæus ran about the streets, crying out that she saw the city full of dead carcases and blood, and an eagle joining in the fight, and then immediately vanishing.

In the dead of night Pyrrhus approached the walls, and finding the gate called Diamperes opened to him by Aristeas, he was not discovered till his Gauls had entered and seized the market-place. But the gate not being high enough to receive the elephants, they were forced to take off their towers; and having afterwards to put them on again in the dark, it could not be done without noise and loss of time, by which means they were discovered. The Argives ran into the citadel called Aspis*, and other places of defence,

* There was an annual feast at Argos, in honour of Juno, called *Ἡεκα Junonia*, and also *Hecatombaia*, from the hecatomb of oxen then offered. Among other games, this prize was proposed for the youth. In a place of considerable strength above the theatre, a brazen buckler was nailed to the wall, and they were to try their strength in plucking it off. The victor was crowned with a myrtle garland, and had the buckler [in Greek *Aspis*] for his pains. Hence the name of the fort. Not only the youth of Argos, but strangers were admitted to the contest; as appears from Pindar. For, speaking of Diagoras of Rhodes, he says,

The Argive Buckler knew him.

OLYMP. Ode 7.

and

and sent to call in Antigonus. But he only advanced towards the walls, to watch his opportunity for action, and contented himself with sending in some of his principal officers and his son with considerable succours.

At the same time Areus arrived in the town with a thousand Cretans and the most active of his Spartans. All these troops being joined, fell at once upon the Gauls, and put them in great disorder. Pyrrhus entered at a place called Cylarabis * with great noise and loud shouts, which were echoed by the Gauls; but he thought their shouts were neither full nor bold, but rather expressive of terror and distress. He therefore advanced in great haste, pushing forward his cavalry, though they marched in danger, by reason of the drains and sewers of which the city was full. Besides, in this nocturnal war, it was impossible either to see what was done, or to hear the orders that were given. The soldiers were scattered about, and lost their way among the narrow streets; nor could the officers rally them in that darkness, amidst such a variety of noises, and in such strait passages; so that both sides continued without doing any thing, and waited for day-light.

At the first dawn Pyrrhus was concerned to see the Aspis full of armed men; but his concern was changed into consternation, when among the many figures in the market-place he beheld a wolf and a bull in brass represented in act to fight. For he recollected an old oracle which had foretold, "That it was his destiny to die when he should see a wolf encountering a bull." The Argives say, these figures were erected in memory of an accident which happened among them long before. They tell us, that when Danaus first entered their country, as he

* Cylarabis was a place of exercise near one of the gates of Argos.

PAUSAN.

passed through the district of Thyreatis, by the way of Pyramia which leads to Argos, he saw a wolf fighting with a bull. Danaus imagined that the wolf represented him, for being a stranger he came to attack the natives, as the wolf did the bull. He therefore stayed to see the issue of the fight, and the wolf proving victorious, he offered his devotions to Apollo Lyceus, and then assaulted and took the town; Gelanor, who was then king, being deposed by a faction. Such is the history of those figures.

Pyrrhus, quite dispirited at the fight, and perceiving at the same time that nothing succeeded according to his hopes, thought it best to retreat. Fearing that the gates were too narrow, he sent orders to his son Helenus, who was left with the main body without the town, to demolish part of the wall, and assist the retreat, if the enemy tried to obstruct it. But the person whom he sent, mistaking the order in the hurry and tumult, and delivering it quite in a contrary sense, the young prince entered the gates with the rest of the elephants and the best of his troops, and marched to assist his father. Pyrrhus was now retiring; and while the market-place afforded room both to retreat and fight, he often faced about and repulsed the assailants. But when from that broad place he came to crowd into the narrow street leading to the gate, he fell in with those who were advancing to his assistance. It was in vain to call out to them to fall back: there were but few that could hear him; and such as did hear, and were most disposed to obey his orders, were pushed back by those who came pouring in behind. Besides, the largest of the elephants was fallen in the gate-way on his side, and lying there and braying in a horrible manner, he stopped those who would have got out. And among the elephants already in the town, one named Nikon, striving to take up his master who was fallen off wounded, rushed against the party who was retreating; and overturned both friends and enemies promiscuously,

promiscuously, till he found the body. Then he took it up with his trunk, and carrying it on his two teeth, returned in great fury, and trod down all before him. When they were thus pressed and crowded together, not a man could do any thing singly, but the whole multitude, like one close compacted body, rolled this way and that all together. They exchanged but few blows with the enemy either in front or rear, and the greatest harm they did was to themselves. For if any man drew his sword or levelled his pike, he could not recover the one or put up the other; the next person, therefore, whoever he happened to be, was necessarily wounded, and thus many of them fell by the hands of each other.

Pyrrhus seeing the tempest rolling about him, took off the plume with which his helmet was distinguished, and gave it to one of his friends. Then trusting to the goodness of his horse, he rode in amongst the enemy who were harassing his rear; and it happened that he was wounded through the breast-plate with a javelin. The wound was rather slight than dangerous, but he turned against the man that gave it, who was an Argive of no note, the son of a poor old woman. This woman, among others, looking upon the fight, from the roof of a house, beheld her son thus engaged. Seized with terror at the sight, she took up a large tile with both hands, and threw it at Pyrrhus. The tile fell upon his head, and, notwithstanding his helmet, crushed the lower *vertebrae* of his neck. Darkness in a moment covered his eyes, his hands let go the reins, and he fell from his horse, by the tomb of Licymnius*. The crowd that was
about

* There is something strikingly contemptible in the fate of this ferocious warrior.—What reflections may it not afford to those scourges of mankind, who to extend their power and gratify their pride, tear out the vitals of human society!—How unfortunate that they do not recollect their own personal insignificance, and consider, while they are disturbing the peace of the earth, that they are beings whom an old woman may kill with a stone!—It is impossible

about him, did not know him, but one Zopyrus, who served under Antigonus, and two or three others coming up, knew him, and dragged him into a porch that was at hand, just as he was beginning to recover from the blow. Zopyrus had drawn his Illyrian blade to cut off his head, when Pyrrhus opened his eyes, and gave him so fierce a look, that he was struck with terror. His hands trembled; and between his desire to give the stroke, and the confusion he was in, he missed the neck, but wounded him in

impossible here to forget the obscure fate of Charles the Twelfth, or the following verses that describe it:

On what foundation stands the warrior's pride,
 How just his hopes, let Swedish Charles decide;
 A frame of adamant, a soul of fire,
 No dangers fright him, and no labours tire;
 O'er love, o'er fear extends his wide domain,
 Unconquer'd lord of pleasure and of pain;
 No joys to him pacific scepters yield,
 War sounds the trump, he rushes to the field.
 Behold surrounding kings their power combine,
 And one capitulate, and one resign.
 Peace courts his hand, but spreads her charms in vain:
 "Think nothing gain'd he cried, 'till nought remain,
 "On Moscow's walls 'till Gothic standards fly,
 "And all be mine beneath the polar sky."
 The march begins in military state,
 And nations on his eye suspended wait.
 Stern famine guards the solitary coast,
 And winter barricades the realm of frost:
 He comes—not want and cold his course delay——
 Hide, blushing glory, hide Pultowa's day!
 The vanquish'd hero leaves his broken bands,
 And shews his miseries in distant lands.
 Condemn'd a needy suppliant, to wait,
 While ladies interpose, and slaves debate.
 But did not chance at length her error mend?
 Did no subverted empire mark his end?
 Did rival monarchs give the fatal wound?
 Or hostile millions press him to the ground?
 His fall was destin'd to a barren strand,
 A petty fortress, and a dubious hand.
 He left the name at which the world grew pale,
 To point a moral, or adorn a tale!

JOHNSON.

the

the mouth and chin, so that it was a long time before he could separate the head from the body.

By this time the thing was generally known, and Alcyoneus, the son of Antigonus, came hastily up and asked for the head, as if he wanted only to look upon it. But as soon as he had got it, he rode off with it to his father, and cast it at his feet as he was sitting with his friends. Antigonus looking upon the head, and knowing it, thrust his son from him: and struck him with his staff, calling him an impious and barbarous wretch. Then putting his robe before his eyes, he wept in remembrance of the fate of his grandfather Antigonus*, and that of his father Demetrius, two instances in his own house of the mutability of fortune. As for the head and body of Pyrrhus, he ordered them to be laid in magnificent attire on the funeral pile and burnt. After this, Alcyoneus having met with Helenus in great distress and a mean garb, addressed him in a courteous manner, and conducted him to his father, who thus expressed himself on the occasion: "In this, my son, "you have acted much better than before; but still "you are deficient: for you should have taken off "that mean habit, which is a greater disgrace to us "who are victorious, than it is to the vanquished."

Then he paid his respects to Helenus in a very obliging manner, and sent him to Epirus with a proper equipage. He gave also the same kind reception to the friends of Pyrrhus, after he had made himself master of his whole camp and army.

* Antigonus the First was killed at the battle of Ipsus, and Demetrius the First long kept a prisoner by his son-in-law Seleucus.

“ should leave the business to the care of Agesilaus.” But their private instructions to him were, “ to do what should appear most advantageous to Sparta.” Agesilaus had no sooner received this order, than he withdrew with his mercenaries, and went over to Nectanabis; covering this strange and scandalous * proceeding with the pretence of acting in the best manner for his country: when that slight veil is taken off, its right name is treachery, and base desertion. It is true, the Lacedaemonians, by placing a regard to the advantage of their country, in the first rank of honour and virtue, left themselves no criterion of justice, but the aggrandisement of Sparta.

Tachos, thus abandoned by the mercenaries, took to flight. But, at the same time, there rose up in Mendes another competitor, to dispute the crown with Nectanabis; and that competitor advanced with a hundred thousand men, whom he had soon assembled. Nectanabis, to encourage Agesilaus, represented to him, that though the numbers of the enemy were great, they were only a mixed multitude, and many of them mechanics, who were to be despised for their utter ignorance of war. “ It is not their numbers,” said Agesilaus, “ that I fear, but that ignorance and “ inexperience you mention, which renders them “ incapable of being practised upon by art or strata- “ gem: for those can only be exercised with success, “ upon such as, having skill enough to suspect the “ designs of their enemy, form schemes to counter- “ mine him, and, in the mean time, are caught by “ new contrivances. But he who has neither expec-

* Xenophon has succeeded well enough in defending Agesilaus with respect to his undertaking the expedition into Ægypt. He represents him pleased with the hopes of making Tachos some return for his many services to the Lacedaemonians: of restoring, through his means, the Greek cities in Asia to their liberty, and of revenging the ill offices done the Spartans by the King of Persia. But it was in vain for that historian to attempt to exculpate him, with respect to his deserting Tachos, which Plutarch justly treats as an act of treachery.

“ tation nor suspicion of that sort, gives his adversary
 “ nor more opportunity, than he who stands still gives
 “ to a wrestler.”

Soon after, the adventurer of Mendes sent persons to sound Agesilaus. This alarmed Nectanabis: and when Agesilaus advised him to give battle immediately, and not to protract the war with men who had seen no service, but who, by the advantage of numbers, might draw a line of circumvallation about his trenches, and prevent him in most of his operations; then his fears and suspicions increased and put him upon the expedient of retiring into a large and well-fortified town. Agesilaus could not well digest this instance of distrust; yet he was ashamed to change sides again, and at last return without effecting any thing. He therefore followed his standard, and entered the town with him.

However, when the enemy came up, and began to open their trenches, in order to enclose him, the Ægyptian, afraid of a siege, was inclined to come immediately to an engagement; and the Greeks were of his opinion, because there was no great quantity of provisions in the place. But Agesilaus opposed it; and the Ægyptians, on that account, looked upon him in a worse light than before, not scrupling to call him a traitor to their king. These censures he now bore with patience, because he was waiting a favourable moment for putting in execution a design he had formed.

The design was this. The enemy, as we have observed, were drawing a deep trench round the walls, with an intent to shut up Nectanabis. When they had proceeded so far in the work, that the two ends were almost ready to meet, as soon as night came on, Agesilaus ordered the Greeks to arm, and then went to the Ægyptian, and said, “ Now is the time, young
 “ man, for you to save yourself, which I did not chuse
 “ to speak of sooner, lest it should be divulged and
 “ lost.” The enemy with their own hands have
 “ worked

“ worked out your security, by labouring so long
 “ upon the trench, that the part which is finished will
 “ prevent our suffering by their numbers, and the
 “ space which is left puts it in our power to fight them
 “ upon equal terms. Come on then; now shew
 “ your courage; sally out along with us, with the
 “ utmost vigour, and save both yourself and your
 “ army. The enemy will not dare to stand us in
 “ front, and our flanks are secured by the trench.”
 Nectanabis now admiring his capacity put himself in
 the middle of the Greeks and advancing to the
 charge, easily routed all that opposed him.

Agefilaus having thus gained the prince's confidence, availed himself once more of the same stratagem, as a wrestler sometimes uses the same slight twice in one day. By sometimes pretending to fly, and sometimes facing about, he drew the enemy's whole army into a narrow place, enclosed with two ditches that were very deep and full of water. When he saw them thus entangled, he advanced to the charge, with a front equal to theirs, and secured by the nature of the ground against being surrounded. The consequence was, that they made but little resistance; numbers were killed, and the rest fled, and were entirely put to the rout.

The Ægyptian, thus successful in his affairs, and firmly established in his kingdom, had a grateful sense of the services of Agefilaus, and pressed him to spend the winter with him. But he hastened his return to Sparta, on account of the war she had upon her hands at home; for he knew that her finances were low, though, at the same time, she found it necessary to employ a body of mercenaries. Nectanabis dismissed him with great marks of honour, and, beside other presents, furnished him with two hundred and thirty talents of silver, for the expences of the Grecian war. But, as it was winter, he met with a storm which drove him upon a desert shore in Africa, called the *haven of Menelaus*; and there he died, at the age of

eighty-four years; of which he had reigned forty-one in Lacedaemon. Above thirty years of that time he made the greatest figure, both as to reputation and power, being looked upon as commander in chief, and, as it were, king of all Greece, till the battle of Leuctra.

It was the custom of the Spartans to bury persons of ordinary rank in the place where they expired, when they happened to die in a foreign country, but to carry the corpses of their kings home. And as the attendants of Agefilaus had not honey to preserve the body, they embalmed it with melted wax, and so conveyed it to Lacedaemon. His son Archidamus succeeded to the crown, which descended in his family to Agis, the fifth from Agefilaus. This Agis, the third of that name, was assassinated by Leonidas, for attempting to restore the ancient discipline of Sparta.

P O M P E Y.

THE people of Rome appear, from the first, to have been affected towards Pompey, much in the same manner as Prometheus, in Æschylus, was towards Hercules, when after that hero had delivered him from his chains, he says,

The fire I hated, but the son I love.*

For never did the Romans entertain a stronger and more rancorous hatred for any general, than for Strabo the father of Pompey. While he lived, indeed, they were afraid of his abilities as a soldier, for he had great talents for war; but upon his death, which happened by a stroke of lightning, they dragged his corpse from the bier, on the way to the funeral pile, and treated it with the greatest indignity. On the other hand, no man ever experienced from the same Romans an attachment more early begun, more disinterested in all the stages of his prosperity, or more constant and faithful in the decline of his fortune, than Pompey.

The sole cause of their aversion to the father, was his insatiable avarice; but there were many causes of their affection for the son; his temperate way of living, his application to martial exercises, his eloquent

* Of the tragedy of *Prometheus released*, from which this line is taken, we have only some fragments remaining. Jupiter had chained Prometheus to the rocks of Caucasus, and Hercules, the son of Jupiter, released him.

and persuasive address, his strict honour and fidelity, and the easiness of access to him upon all occasions; for no man was ever less importunate in asking favours *, or more gracious in conferring them. When he gave, it was without arrogance, and when he received, it was with dignity.

In his youth he had a very engaging countenance, which spoke for him before he opened his lips. Yet that grace of aspect was not unattended with dignity, and amidst his youthful bloom there was a venerable and princely air. His hair naturally curled a little before; which, together with the shining moisture † and quick turn of his eye, produced a stronger likeness of Alexander the Great, than that which appeared in the statues of that prince. So that some seriously gave him the name of Alexander, and he did not refuse it; others applied it to him by way of ridicule. And Lucius Philippus ‡, a man of consular dignity, as he was one day pleading for him, said, "It was no wonder if Philip was a Lover of Alexander."

We are told, that Flora, the courtesan, took a pleasure in her old-age, in speaking of the commerce she had with Pompey; and she used to say, she could never quit his embraces without giving him a bite. She added, that Geminius, one of Pompey's acquaintance, had a passion for her, and gave her much trouble with his solicitations. At last, she told him, she could

* *ὅς τις μηδενὸς αὐτοπροσέειπον δειδναι, μηδὲ ἥδον ἐπαγγέλλεται δεόμενον.*

The Latin translator has taken *δειδναι* in a passive sense — *cum quidem nemo esset, qui vel æquari animo peti abs se aliquid pateretur*. But that is inconsistent with the contrast which immediately follows.

One of the manuscripts has it *ὅς τις μηδενὸς προσέειπον* — and Dacier appears to have followed it — *car il n'y avoit point d'homme plus réservé que lui à demander des services*.

† *ὕγρῳ* signifies not only *moisture*, but *flexibility*. Lucian has *ὕγρῳ μέλει*. And *ταῦτα πρὸς τὰ σωματικὰ ἔστιν ὕψος* seems more applicable to the latter sense. However, we have given both.

‡ Lucius Martius Philippus, one of the greatest orators of his time. He was father-in-law to Augustus, having married his mother Attia. Horace speaks of him, Lib. i. Ep. 7.

not consent on account of Pompey. Upon which, he applied to Pompey for his permission, and he gave it him, but never approached her afterwards, though he seemed to retain a regard for her. She bore the loss of him, not with the slight uneasiness of a prostitute, but was long sick through sorrow and regret. It is said, that Flora was so celebrated for her beauty and fine bloom, that when Caecilius Metellus adorned the temple of Castor and Pollux with statues and paintings, he gave her picture a place among them.

Demetrius, one of Pompey's freed-men, who had great interest with him, and who died worth four thousand talents, had a wife of irresistible beauty. Pompey, on that account, behaved to her with less politeness than was natural to him, that he might not appear to be caught by her charms. But though he took his measures with so much care and caution in this respect, he could not escape the censures of his enemies, who accused him of a commerce with married women, and said he often neglected, or gave up, points essential to the public, to gratify his mistresses.

As to the simplicity of his diet, there is a remarkable saying of his upon record. In a great illness, when his appetite was almost gone, the physician ordered him a thrush. His servants, upon enquiry, found there was not one to be had for money; for the season was past. They were informed, however, that Lucullus had them all the year in his menageries. This being reported to Pompey, he said, "Does Pompey's life depend upon the luxury of Lucullus?" Then, without any regard to the physician, he eat something that was easy to be had. But this happened at a later period of his life.

While he was very young, and served under his father, who was carrying on the war against Cinna*,

* In the year of Rome 666. And as Pompey was born the same year with Cicero, viz. in the year of Rome 647, he must, in this war with Cinna, have been nineteen years old.

one Lucius Terentius was his comrade, and they slept in the same tent. This Terentius, being gained by Cinna's money, undertook to assassinate Pompey, while others set fire to the general's tent. Pompey got information of this when he was at supper, and it did not put him in the least confusion. He drank more freely, and caressed Terentius more than usual; but when they were to have gone to rest, he stole out of the tent, and went and planted a guard about his father. This done, he waited quietly for the event. Terentius, as soon as he thought Pompey was asleep, drew his sword, and stabbed the coverlets of the bed in many places, imagining that he was in it.

Immediately after this, there was a great mutiny in the camp. The soldiers, who hated their general, were determined to go over to the enemy, and began to strike their tents and take up their arms. The general dreading the tumult, did not dare to make his appearance. But Pompey was every where; he begged of them with tears to stay, and at last threw himself upon his face in the gate-way. There he lay weeping, and bidding them, if they would go out, tread upon him. Upon this, they were ashamed to proceed, and all, except eight hundred, returned and reconciled themselves to their general.

After the death of Strabo, a charge was laid that he had converted the public money to his own use, and Pompey, as his heir, was obliged to answer it. Upon enquiry, he found that Alexander, one of the enfranchised slaves, had secreted most of the money; and he took care to inform the magistrates of the particulars. He was accused, however, himself, of having taken some hunting-nets and books out of the spoils of Asculum; and, it is true, his father gave them to him when he took the place; but he lost them at the return of Cinna to Rome, when that general's creatures broke into, and pillaged his house. In this affair he maintained the combat well with his adversary at the bar, and shewed an acuteness and firmness
above

above his years ; which gained him so much applause, that Antistius, the praetor, who had the hearing of the cause, conceived an affection for him, and offered him his daughter in marriage. The proposal accordingly was made to his friends. Pompey accepted it ; and the treaty was concluded privately. The people, however, had some notion of the thing from the pains which Antistius took for Pompey ; and at last, when he pronounced the sentence, in the name of all the judges, by which Pompey was acquitted, the multitude, as it were, upon a signal given, broke out in the old marriage acclamation of *Talasio*.

The origin of the term is said to have been this. When the principal Romans seized the daughters of the Sabines, who were come to see the games they were celebrating to entrap them, some herdsmen and shepherds laid hold of a virgin remarkably tall and handsome ; and, lest she should be taken from them, as they carried her off, they cried all the way they went, *Talasio*. Talasius was a young man, universally beloved and admired ; therefore all who heard them, delighted with the intention, joined in the cry, and accompanied them with plaudits. They tell us, the marriage of Talasius proved fortunate, and thence all bridegrooms, by way of mirth, were welcomed with that acclamation. This is the most probable account I can find of the term *.

Pompey in a little time married Antistia ; and afterwards repaired to Cinna's camp. But finding some unjust charges laid against him there, he took the first private opportunity to withdraw. As he was no where to be found, a rumour prevailed in the army, that Cinna had put the young man to death : upon which, numbers who hated Cinna, and could no longer bear with his cruelties, attacked his quarters. He fled for his life ; and being overtaken by one of the inferior officers, who pursued him with a drawn sword, he fell upon his knees, and offered him

* See more of this in the life of Romulus.

his ring, which was of no small value. The officer answered, with great ferocity, " I am not come to sign a contract, but to punish an impious and lawless tyrant," and then killed him upon the spot.

Such was the end of Cinna ; after whom Carbo, a tyrant still more savage, took the reins of government. It was not long, however, before Sylla returned to Italy, to the great satisfaction of most of the Romans, who, in their present unhappy circumstances, thought the change of their master no small advantage. To such a desperate state had their calamities brought them, that no longer hoping for liberty, they sought only the most tolerable servitude.

At that time Pompey was in the Picene, whither he had retired, partly because he had lands there, but more on account of an old attachment which the cities in that district had to his family. As he observed that the best and most considerable of the citizens left their houses, and took refuge in Sylla's camp as in a port, he resolved to do the same. At the same time he thought it did not become him to go like a fugitive who wanted protection, but rather in a respectable manner at the head of an army. He therefore tried what levies he could make in the Picene*, and the people readily repaired to his standard ; rejecting the applications of Carbo. On this occasion, one Vindius happening to say, " Pompey is just come from under the hands of the pedagogue, and all on a sudden is become a demagogue among you," they were so provoked, that they fell upon him and cut him in pieces.

Thus Pompey, at the age of twenty-three, without a commission from any superior authority, erected himself into a general ; and having placed his tribunal in the most public part of the great city of Auximum, by a formal decree commanded the Ventidii, two brothers who opposed him in behalf of Carbo, to depart the city : He enlisted soldiers ; he ap-

* Now the March of Ancona.

pointed tribunes, centurions, and other officers, according to the established custom. He did the same in all the neighbouring cities; for the partisans of Carbo retired and gave place to him, and the rest were glad to range themselves under his banners. So that in a little time he raised three complete legions, and furnished himself with provisions, beasts of burden, carriages, and, in short, with the whole apparatus of war.

In this form he moved towards Sylla, not by hasty marches, nor as if he wanted to conceal himself; for he stopped by the way to harass the enemy, and attempted to draw off from Carbo, all the parts of Italy through which he passed. At last, three generals of the opposite party, Carinna, Coelius, and Brutus, came against him all at once, not in front, or in one body, but they hemmed him in with their three armies, in hopes to demolish him entirely.

Pompey, far from being terrified, assembled all his forces, and charged the army of Brutus at the head of his cavalry. The Gaulish horse on the enemy's side sustained the first shock; but Pompey attacked the foremost of them, who was a man of prodigious strength, and brought him down with a push of his spear. The rest immediately fled, and threw the infantry into such disorder, that the whole was soon put to flight. This produced so great a quarrel among the three generals, that they parted, and took separate routes. In consequence of which, the cities, concluding that the fears of the enemy had made them part, adopted the interests of Pompey.

Not long after, Scipio the consul advanced to engage him. But before the infantry were near enough to discharge their lances, Scipio's soldiers saluted those of Pompey, and came over to them. Scipio, therefore, was forced to fly. At last Carbo sent a large body of cavalry against Pompey near the river Arsis. He gave them so warm a reception, that they were soon broken, and in the pursuit he drove them upon impracticable ground; so that finding it impossible
to

to escape, they surrendered themselves with their arms and horses.

Sylla had not yet been informed of these transactions; but upon the first news of Pompey's being engaged with so many adversaries, and such respectable generals, he dreaded the consequence, and marched with all expedition to his assistance. Pompey having intelligence of his approach, ordered his officers to see that the troops were armed and drawn up in such a manner, as to make the handsomest and most gallant appearance before the commander in chief. For he expected great honours from him, and he obtained greater. Sylla no sooner saw Pompey advancing to meet him, with an army in excellent condition, both as to the age and size of the men, and the spirits which success had given them, than he alighted; and upon being saluted of course by Pompey, as *imperator*, he returned his salutation with the same title: though no one imagined that he would have honoured a young man, not yet admitted into the senate, with a title for which he was contending with the Scipios and the Marii. The rest of his behaviour was as respectful as that in the first interview. He used to rise up and uncover his head, whenever Pompey came to him; which he was rarely observed to do for any other, tho' he had a number of persons of distinction about him.

Pompey was not elated with these honours. On the contrary, when Sylla wanted to send him into Gaul, where Metellus had done nothing worthy of the forces under his direction, he said, "It was not right to take the command from a man who was his superior both in age and character; but if Metellus should desire his assistance in the conduct of the war, it was at his service." Metellus accepted the proposal, and wrote to him to come; whereupon he entered Gaul, and not only signalized his own valour and capacity, but excited once more the spirit of adventure in Metellus, which was almost extinguished with age: just as brass in a state of fusion is said to melt a cold plate sooner

sooner than fire itself. But as it is not usual, when a champion has distinguished himself in the lists, and gained the prize in all the games, to record or to take any notice of the performances of his younger years; so the actions of Pompey, in this period, though extraordinary in themselves, yet being eclipsed by the number and importance of his later expeditions, I shall forbear to mention, lest by dwelling upon his first essays, I should not leave myself room for those greater and more critical events which mark his character and turn of mind.

After Sylla had made himself master of Italy, and was declared dictator, he rewarded his principal officers with riches and honours; making them liberal grants of whatever they applied for. But he was most struck with the excellent qualities of Pompey, and was persuaded that he owed more to his services than those of any other man. He therefore resolved, if possible, to take him into his alliance; and, as his wife Metella was perfectly of his opinion, they persuaded Pompey to divorce Antistia, and to marry Æmilia, the daughter-in-law of Sylla, whom Metella had by Scaurus, and who was at that time pregnant by another marriage.

Nothing could be more tyrannical than this new contract. It was suitable, indeed, to the times of Sylla, but it ill became the character of Pompey to take Æmilia, pregnant as she was, from another, and bring her into his house, and at the same time to repudiate Antistia, distressed as she must be for a father whom she had lately lost on account of this cruel husband. For Antistius was killed in the senate-house, because it was thought his regard for Pompey had attached him to the cause of Sylla. And her mother, upon this divorce, laid violent hands upon herself. This was an additional scene of misery in that tragical marriage; as was also the fate of Æmilia in Pompey's house, who died there in child-bed.

Soon

Soon after this, Sylla received an account, that Perpenna had made himself master of Sicily, where he afforded an asylum to the party which opposed the reigning powers. Carbo was hovering with a fleet about that island; Domitius had entered Africa; and many other persons of great distinction, who had escaped the fury of the proscriptions by flight, had taken refuge there. Pompey was sent against them with a considerable armament. He soon forced Perpenna to quit the island; and having recovered the cities, which had been much harassed by the armies that were there before his, he behaved to them all with great humanity, except the Mamertines, who were seated in Messina. That people had refused to appear before his tribunal, and to acknowledge his jurisdiction, alleging that they stood excused by an ancient privilege granted them by the Romans. He answered, "Will you never have done with citing laws and privileges to men who wear swords?" His behaviour, too, to Carbo, in his misfortunes, appeared inhuman. For, if it was necessary, as perhaps it was, to put him to death, he should have done it immediately, and then it would have been the work of him that gave orders for it. But, instead of that, he caused a Roman, who had been honoured with three consulships, to be brought in chains before his tribunal, where he sat in judgment on him, to the regret of all the spectators, and ordered him to be led off to execution. When they were carrying him off, and he beheld the sword drawn, he was so much disordered at it, that he was forced to beg a moment's respite, and a private place for the necessities of nature.

Caius Oppius*, the friend of Caesar, writes, that Pompey likewise treated Quintus Valerius with inhumanity. For, knowing him to be a man of letters,

* The same who wrote an account of the Spanish war. He was also a biographer; but his works of that kind are lost. He was mean enough to write a treatise to show, that Caesar was not the son of Caesar.

and that few were to be compared to him in point of knowledge, he took him (he says) aside, and after he had walked with him till he had satisfied himself upon several points of learning, commanded his servants to take him to the block. But we may be very cautious how we give credit to Oppius, when he speaks of the friends and enemies of Caesar. Pompey, indeed, was under a necessity of punishing the principal enemies of Sylla, particularly when they were taken publicly. But others he suffered to escape, and even assisted some in getting off.

He had resolved to chastise the Himereans for attempting to support his enemies, when the orator Sthenis told him, "He would act unjustly if he passed by the person that was guilty, and punished the innocent." Pompey asked him, "Who was the guilty person," and he answered, "I am the man. I persuaded my friends, and compelled my enemies, to take the measures they did." Pompey, delighted with his frank confession and noble spirit, forgave him first, and afterwards all the people of Himera. Being informed that his soldiers committed great disorders in their excursions, he sealed up their swords, and if any of them broke the seal, he took care to have them punished.

While he was making these and other regulations in Sicily, he received a decree of the senate, and letters from Sylla, in which he was commanded to cross over to Africa, and to carry on the war with the utmost vigour against Domitius, who had assembled a much more powerful army than that which Marius carried not long before from Africa to Italy, when he made himself master of Rome, and of a fugitive became a tyrant. Pompey soon finished his preparations for this expedition; and leaving the command in Sicily to Memmius, his sister's husband he set sail with a hundred and twenty armed vessels, and eight hundred store-ships, laden with provisions, arms, money, and machines of war. Part of his fleet landed

at

at Utica, and part at Carthage; immediately after which seven thousand of the enemy came over to him; and he had brought with him six legions complete.

On his arrival he met with a whimsical adventure. Some of his soldiers, it seems, found a treasure, and shared considerable sums. The thing getting air, the rest of the troops concluded, that the place was full of money; which the Carthaginians had hidden there in some time of public distress. Pompey, therefore, could make no use of them for several days: they were searching for treasures; and he had nothing to do but walk about and amuse himself with the sight of so many thousands digging and turning up the ground. At last they gave up the point, and bade him lead them wherever he pleased, for they were sufficiently punished for their folly.

Domitius advanced to meet him, and put his troops in order of battle. There happened to be a channel between them, craggy and difficult to pass. In the morning it began, moreover, to rain, and the wind blew violently; insomuch that Domitius, not imagining there would be any action that day, ordered his army to retire. But Pompey looked upon this as his opportunity, and he passed the defile with the utmost expedition. The enemy stood upon their defence, but it was in a disorderly and tumultuous manner, and the resistance they made was neither general nor uniform. Besides the wind and rain beat in their faces. The storm incommoded the Romans too, for they could not well distinguish each other. Nay Pompey himself was in danger of being killed by a soldier who asked him the word, and received not a speedy answer. At length, however, he routed the enemy, with great slaughter; not above three thousand of them escaping out of twenty thousand. The soldiers then saluted Pompey *imperator*, but he said he would not accept that title while the enemy's camp stood untouched; therefore, if they chuse to confer such an honour upon him,

and gentler than those of others. The general, much pleased with Marius's beasts, often made mention of them; and hence those who by way of railery praised a drudging patient man, called him Marius's mule.

On this occasion, it was a very fortunate circumstance for Marius, that the Barbarians, turning their course, like a reflux of the tide, first invaded Spain. For this gave him time to strengthen his men by exercise, and to raise and confirm their courage; and, what was still of greater importance, to shew them what he himself was. His severe behaviour and inflexibility in punishing, when it had once accustomed them to mind their conduct and be obedient, appeared both just and salutary. When they were a little used to his hot and violent spirit, to the harsh tone of his voice, and the fierceness of his countenance, they no longer considered them as terrible to themselves, but to the enemy. Above all, the soldiers were charmed with his integrity in judging; and this contributed not a little to procure Marius a third consulate. Besides, the Barbarians were expected in the spring, and the people were not willing to meet them under any other general. They did not, however, come so soon as they were looked for, and the year expired without his getting a sight of them. The time of a new election coming on, and his colleague being dead, Marius left the command of the army to Manius Aquilius, and went himself to Rome. Several persons of great merit stood for the consulate; but Lucius Saturninus, a tribune who led the people, being gained by Marius, in all his speeches exhorted them to chuse him consul. Marius, for his part, desired to be excused, pretending that he did not want the office: whereupon Saturninus called him a traitor to his country, who deserted the command in such time of danger. It was not difficult to perceive that Marius dissembled, and that the tribune acted a bungling part under him; yet the people considering

that the present juncture required both his capacity and good fortune, created him consul a fourth time, and appointed Lutatius Catulus his colleague, a man much esteemed by the patricians, and not unacceptable to the commons.

Marius being informed of the enemy's approach, passed the Alps with the utmost expedition; and having marked out his camp by the river Rhone, fortified it, and brought into it a large supply of provisions; that the want of necessaries might never compel him to fight at a disadvantage. But as the carriage of provisions by sea was tedious and very expensive, he found a way to make it easy and expeditious. The mouth of the Rhone was at that time choaked up with mud and sand, which the beating of the sea had lodged there; so that it was very dangerous, if not impracticable, for vessels of burthen to enter it. Marius, therefore, set his army, now quite at leisure, to work there; and having caused a cut to be made, capable of receiving large ships, he turned great part of the river into it; thus drawing it to a coast, where the opening to the sea is easy and secure. This cut still retains his name.

The Barbarians dividing themselves into two bodies, it fell to the lot of the Cimbri to march the upper way through Noricum against Catulus, and to force that pass; while the Teutones and Ambrones took the road through Liguria along the sea-coast in order to reach Marius. The Cimbri spent some time in preparing for their march: but the Teutones and Ambrones set out immediately, and pushed forward with great expedition; so that they soon traversed the intermediate country, and presented to the view of the Romans an incredible number of enemies, terrible in their aspect, and in their voice and shouts of war different from all other men. They spread themselves over a vast extent of ground near Marius, and when they had encamped, they challenged him to battle.

The

The consul, for his part, regarded them not, but kept his soldiers within the trenches, rebuking the vanity and rashness of those who wanted to be in action, calling them traitors to their country. He told them, "Their ambition should not now be for triumphs and trophies, but to dispel the dreadful storm that hung over them, and to save Italy from destruction." These things he said privately to his chief officers and men of the first rank. As for the common soldiers, he made them mount guard by turns upon the ramparts, to accustom them to bear the dreadful looks of the enemy, and to hear their savage voices, without fear, as well as to make them acquainted with their arms, and their way of using them. By these means what at first was terrible, by being often looked upon, would in time become un-affecting. For he concluded that with regard to objects of terror, novelty adds many unreal circumstances, and that things really dreadful lose their effect by familiarity. Indeed, the daily sight of the Barbarians not only lessened the fears of the soldiers, but the menacing behaviour and intolerable vanity of the enemy, provoked their resentment, and inflamed their courage. For they not only plundered and ruined the adjacent country, but advanced to the very trenches with the greatest insolence and contempt.

Marius at last was told, that the soldiers vented their grief in such complaints as these: "What ef-
"feminacy has Marius discovered in us, that he
"thus keeps us locked up, like so many women,
"and restrains us from fighting? come on; let us
"with the spirit of freemen, ask him if he waits for
"others to fight for the liberties of Rome, and in-
"tends to make use of us only as the vilest labour-
"ers, in digging trenches, in carrying out loads of
"dirt, and turning the course of rivers? It is for
"such noble works as these, no doubt, that he ex-
"ercises us in such painful labours; and, when they
"are

“are done, he will return and shew his fellow-citizens the glorious fruits of the continuation of his power. It is true, Carbo and Caepio were beaten by the enemy: but does their ill success terrify him? surely Carbo and Caepio were generals as much inferior to Marius in valour and renown, as we are superior to the army they led. Better it were to be in action, though we suffered from it, like them, than to sit still and see the destruction of our allies.”

Marius, delighted with these speeches, talked to them in a soothing way. He told them, “It was not from any distrust of them, that he sat still, but that, by order of certain oracles, he waited both for the time and place which were to ensure him the victory.” For he had with him a Syrian woman, named Martha, who was said to have the gift of prophecy. She was carried about in a litter with great respect and solemnity, and the sacrifices he offered, were all by her direction. She had formerly applied to the senate in this character, and made an offer of predicting for them future events, but they refused to hear her. Then she betook herself to the women, and gave them a specimen of her art. She addressed herself particularly to the wife of Marius, at whose feet she happened to sit, when there was a combat of gladiators, and fortunately enough, told her, which of them would prove victorious. Marius’s wife sent her to her husband, who received her with the utmost veneration, and provided for her the litter in which she was generally carried. When she went to sacrifice, she wore a purple robe, lined with the same, and buttoned up, and held in her hand a spear adorned with ribbons and garlands. When they saw this pompous scene, many doubted whether Marius was really persuaded of her prophetic abilities, or only pretended to be so, and acted a part, while he shewed the woman in this form.

But

But what Alexander of Myndos relates concerning the vultures, really deserves admiration. Two of them, it seems always appeared, and followed the army, before any great success, being well known by their brazen collars. The soldiers, when they took them, had put these collars upon them, and then let them go. From this time they knew, and in a manner saluted the soldiers; and the soldiers, whenever these appeared upon their march, rejoiced in the assurance of performing something extraordinary.

About this time, there happened many prodigies most of them of the usual kind. But news was brought from Ameria and Tudertum, cities in Italy, that one night there were seen in the sky spears and shields of fire, now waving about, and then clashing against each other, in imitation of the postures and motions of men fighting; and that, one party giving way, and the other advancing, at last they all disappeared in the west. Much about this time too, there arrived from Pessinus, Batabaces, priest of the mother of the gods, with an account that the goddesses had declared from her sanctuary, "That the Romans" would soon obtain a great and glorious victory." The senate had given credit to his report, and decreed the goddesses a temple on account of the victory. But when Batabaces went out, to make the same declaration to the people, Aulus Pompeius, one of the tribunes, prevented him, calling him an impostor, and driving him in an ignominious manner from the *Rostrum*. What followed, indeed, was the thing which contributed most to the credit of the prediction: For Aulus had scarcely dissolved the assembly, and reached his own house, when he was seized with a violent fever, of which he died within a week. This was a fact universally known.

Marius still keeping close, the Teutones attempted to force his entrenchments but being received with a shower of darts from the camp, by which they lost a number of men, they resolved to march forward,

concluding that they might pass the Alps in full security. They packed up their baggage, therefore and marched by the Roman camp. Then it was that the immensity of their numbers appeared in the clearest light, from the length of their train, and the time they took up in passing: for it is said, that though they moved on without intermission, they were six days in going by Marius's camp. Indeed, they went very near it, and asked the Romans by way of insult, "whether they had any commands to their wives, for they should be shortly with them?" As soon as the Barbarians had all passed by, and were full in march, Marius likewise decamped, and followed; always taking care to keep near them, and choosing strong places at some small distance for his camp, which he also fortified, in order that he might pass the nights in safety. Thus they moved on till they came to Aquae Sextiae, from whence there is but a short march to the Alps.

There Marius prepared for battle; having pitched upon a place for his camp, which was unexceptionable in point of strength, but afforded little water. By this circumstance, they tell us, he wanted to excite the soldiers to action; and when many of them complained of thirst, he pointed to a river which ran close by the enemy's camp, and told them, "that thence they must purchase water with their blood." "Why, then," said they, "do you not lead us thither immediately, before our blood is quite parched up?" to which he answered in a softer tone, "I will lead you thither, but first let us fortify our camp."

The soldiers obeyed, though with some reluctance. But the servants of the army, being in great want of water, both for themselves and their cattle, ran in crowds to the stream, some with pick-axes, some with hatchets, and others with swords and javelins, along with their pitchers; for they were resolved to have water, though they were obliged to fight for it.

These

These at first were encountered by a small party of the enemy, when some having bathed, were engaged at dinner, and others were still bathing. For there the country abounds in hot wells. This gave the Romans an opportunity of cutting off a number of them, while they were indulging themselves in those delicious baths, and charmed with the sweetness of the place. The cry of these brought others to their assistance, so that it was now difficult for Marius to restrain the impetuosity of his soldiers, who were in pain for their servants. Besides, the Ambrones, to the number of thirty thousand, who were the best troops of the enemy, and who had already defeated Manlius and Caepio, were drawn out, and stood to their arms. Though they had overcharged themselves with eating, yet the wine they drank, had given them fresh spirits, and they advanced, not in a wild and disorderly manner, or with a confused and inarticulate noise; but beating their arms at regular intervals, and all keeping time with the tune, they came on, crying out, *Ambrones! Ambrones!* This they did, either to encourage each other, or to terrify the enemy with their name. The Ligurians were the first of the Italians that moved against them; and when they heard the enemy cry *Ambrones*, they echoed back the word, which was indeed their own ancient name. Thus the shout was often returned from one army to the other before they charged, and the officers on both sides joining in it, and striving which should pronounce the word loudest, added by this means to the courage and impetuosity of their troops.

The Ambrones were obliged to pass the river, and this broke their order; so that, before they could form again, the Ligurians charged the foremost of them, and thus began the battle. The Romans came to support the Ligurians, and pouring down from the higher ground, pressed the enemy so hard, that they soon put them in disorder. Many of them

justling each other on the banks of the river, were slain there, and the river itself was filled with dead bodies. Those who got safe over not daring to make head, were cut off by the Romans, as they fled to their camp and carriages. There the women meeting them with swords and axes, and setting up a horrid and hideous cry, fell upon the fugitives, as well as the pursuers, the former as traitors, and the latter as enemies. Mingling with the combatants they laid hold on the Roman shields, caught at their swords, with their naked hands, and, obstinately suffered themselves to be hacked to pieces. Thus the battle is said to have been fought on the banks of the river, rather by accident than any design of the general.

The Romans, after having destroyed so many of the Ambrones, retired as it grew dark; but the camp did not resound with songs of victory, as might have been expected upon such success. There were no entertainments, no mirth in the tents, nor what is the most agreeable circumstance to the soldier after victory, any sound and refreshing sleep. The night was passed in the greatest dread and perplexity. The camp was without trench or rampart. There remained yet many myriads of the Barbarians unconquered; and such of the Ambrones as escaped, mixing with them, a cry was heard all night, not like the sighs and groans of men, but like the howling and bellowing of wild beasts. As this proceeded from such an innumerable host, the neighbouring mountains and the hollow banks of the river returned the sound, and the horrid din filled the whole plain. The Romans felt the impressions of terror, and Marius himself was filled with astonishment, at the apprehensions of a tumultuous night-engagement. However, the Barbarians did not attack them, either that night or next day, but spent the time in consulting how to dispose and draw themselves up to the best advantage.

In

In the mean time, Marius observing the sloping hills and woody hollows, that hung over the enemy's camp, dispatched Claudius Marcellus with three thousand men, to lie in ambush there till the fight was begun, and then to fall upon the enemy's rear. The rest of his troops he ordered to sup and go to rest in good time. Next morning as soon as it was light, he drew up before the camp, and commanded the cavalry to march into the plain. The Teutones seeing this, could not contain themselves, nor stay till all the Romans were come down into the plain, where they might fight them upon equal terms; but arming hastily through thirst of vengeance, advanced up to the hill. Marius dispatched his officers through the whole army, with orders that they should stand still and wait for the enemy. When the Barbarians were within reach, the Romans were to throw their javelins, then come to sword in hand, and pressing upon them with their shields, push them with all their force. For he knew the place was so slippery, that the enemy's blows could have no great weight, nor could they preserve any close order, where the declivity of the ground continually changed their poise. At the same time that he gave these directions, he was the first that set the example. For he was inferior to none in personal agility, and in resolution he far exceeded them all.

The Romans by their firmness and united charge kept the Barbarians from ascending the hill, and by little and little forced them down into the plain. There the foremost battalions were beginning to form again, when the utmost confusion discovered itself in the rear. For Marcellus who had watched his opportunity, as soon as he found, by the noise which reached the hills where he lay, that the battle was begun, with great impetuosity and loud shouts fell upon the enemy's rear, and destroyed a considerable number of them. The hindmost being pushed upon those before, the whole army was soon put in disorder.

order. Thus attacked both in front and rear, they could not stand the double shock, but forsook their ranks, and fled *. The Romans pursuing, either killed or took prisoners above an hundred thousand, and having made themselves masters of their tents, carriages and baggage, voted as many of them as were not plundered, a present to Marius. This indeed was a noble recompence, yet it was thought very inadequate to the generalship he had shewn in that great and imminent danger †.

Other historians give a different account, both of the disposition of the spoils, and the number of the slain. From these writers we learn, that the Massilians walled in their vineyards with the bones they found in the field; and that the rain which fell the winter following, soaking in the moisture of the putrified bodies, the ground was so enriched by it, that it produced the next season a prodigious crop. Thus the opinion of Archilochus is confirmed, that *fields are fattened with blood*. It is observed, indeed, that extraordinary rains generally fall after great battles; whether it be, that some deity chuses to wash and purify the earth with water from above, or whether the blood and corruption, by the moist and heavy vapours they emit, thicken the air, which is liable to be altered by the smallest cause.

After the battle, Marius selected from among the arms and other spoils, such as were elegant and entire, and likely to make the greatest show in his triumph. The rest he piled together, and offered them as a splendid sacrifice to the gods. The army stood round the pile crowned with laurel; and him-

* This victory was gained the second year of the hundred and sixty-ninth olympiad, before Christ one hundred.

† And yet there does not appear any thing very extraordinary in the generalship of Marius on this occasion. The ignorance and rashness of the Barbarians did every thing in his favour. The Teutones lost the battle, as Hawley lost it at Falkirk, by attempting the hills.

self arrayed in his purple robe*, and girt after the manner of the Romans, took a lighted torch. He had just lifted it up with both hands towards heaven, and was going to set fire to the piles, when some friends were seen galloping towards him. Great silence and expectation followed. When they were come near, they leaped from their horses, and saluted Marius consul the fifth time, delivering him letters to the same purpose. This added great joy to the solemnity, which the soldiers expressed by acclamations and by clanking their arms: and while the officers were presenting Marius with new crowns of laurel, he set fire to the pile, and finished the sacrifice.

Whatever it is, that will not permit us to enjoy any great prosperity pure and unmixed, but chequers human life with a variety of good and evil; whether it be fortune, or some chastising deity, or necessity and the nature of things; a few days after this joyful solemnity, the sad news was brought to Marius of what had befallen his colleague Catulus. An event, which like a cloud in the midst of a calm, brought fresh alarms upon Rome, and threatened her with another tempest. Catulus, who had the Cimbri to oppose, came to resolution to give up the defence of the heights, lest he should weaken himself by being obliged to divide his forces into many parts. He therefore descended quickly from the Alps into Italy, and posted his army behind the river Athesist; where he blocked up the fords with strong fortifications on both sides, and threw a bridge over it; that so he might be in a condition to succour the garrisons beyond it, if the Barbarians should make their way through the narrow passes of the mountains, and attempt to storm them. The Barbarians held their

* Ipse quirinali trabeâ, cinctuque Gabino insignis.

VIRG. Æneid. 7.

† Now the Adige.

enemies in such contempt, and came on with so much insolence, that, rather to shew their strength and courage, than out of any necessity, they exposed themselves naked to the showers of snow; and having pushed through the ice and deep drifts of snow to the tops of the mountains, they put their broad shields under them, and so slid down, in spite of the broken rocks and vast slippery descents.

When they had encamped near the river, and taken a view of the channel, they determined to fill it up. Then they tore up the neighbouring hills, like the giants of old; they pulled up trees by the roots; they broke off massy rocks, and rolled in huge heaps of earth. These were to dam up the current. Other bulky materials besides these, were thrown in, to force away the bridge, which being carried down the stream with great violence, beat against the timber, and shook the foundation. At the sight of this the Roman soldiers were struck with terror, and great part of them quitted the camp and drew back. On this occasion Catulus, like an able and excellent general, shewed that he preferred the glory of his country to his own. For when he found that he could not persuade his men to keep their post, and that they were deserting it in a very dastardly manner, he ordered his standard to be taken up, and running to the foremost of the fugitives led them on himself; chusing rather that the disgrace should fall upon him than upon his country, and that his soldiers should not seem to fly, but to follow their general.

The Barbarians now assaulted and took the fortrefs on the other side of the Athesis: but admiring the bravery of the garrison, who had behaved in a manner suitable to the glory of Rome, they dismissed them upon certain conditions, having first made them swear to them upon a brazen bull. In the battle that followed, this bull was taken among the spoils, and is said to have been carried to Catulus's house,

house, as the first-fruits of the victory. The country at present being without defence, the Cimbri spread themselves over it, and committed great depredations.

Hereupon, Marius was called home. When he arrived, every one expected that he would triumph, and the senate readily passed a decree for that purpose. However, he declined it; whether it was, that he was unwilling to deprive his men, who had shared in the danger, of their part of the honour, or that to encourage the people in the present extremity, he chose to entrust the glory of his former achievements with the fortune of Rome, in order to have it restored to him with interest upon his next success. Having made an oration suitable to the time, he went to join Catulus, who was much encouraged by his coming. He then sent for his army out of Gaul; and when it was arrived, he crossed the Po, with a design to keep the Barbarians from penetrating into the interior parts of Italy. But they deferred the combat, on pretence that they expected the Teutones, and that they wondered at their delay; either being really ignorant of their fate, or chusing to seem so. For they punished those who brought them that account with stripes; and sent to ask Marius for lands and cities, sufficient both for them and their brethren. When Marius enquired of the ambassadors who their brethren were, they told him the Teutones. The assembly laughed, and Marius replied in a taunting manner, "Do not trouble yourselves about your brethren; for they have land enough, which we have already given them, and they shall have it for ever." The ambassadors perceiving the irony, answered in sharp and scurrilous terms, assuring him, "That the Cimbri would chastise him immediately, and the Teutones when they came." "And they are not far off," said Marius; "it will be very unkind, therefore, in you to go away without saluting your brethren."

“brethren.” At the same time he ordered the kings of the Teutones to be brought out, loaded as they were with chains : for they had been taken by the Sequani, as they were endeavouring to escape over the Alps.

As soon as the ambassadors had acquainted the Cimbri with what had passed, they marched directly against Marius, who, at that time lay still, and kept within his trenches. It is reported that on this occasion he contrived a new form for the javelins. Till then they used to fasten the shaft to the iron head with two iron pins. But Marius now letting one of them remain as it was, had the other taken out, and a weak wooden peg put in its place. By this contrivance he intended, that when the javelin struck in the enemy's shield, it should not stand right out; but that, the wooden peg breaking, and the iron pin bending, the shaft of the weapon should be dragged upon the ground, while the point stuck fast in the shield.

Boiorix, king of the Cimbri, came now with a small party of horse to the Roman camp, and challenged Marius to appoint the time and place where they should meet and decide by arms, to whom the country should belong. Marius answered, “That the Romans never consulted their enemies when to fight; however, he would indulge the Cimbri in this point.” Accordingly they agreed to fight the third day after, and that the plain of Vercellae should be the field of battle, which was fit for the Roman cavalry to act in, and convenient for the Barbarians to display their numbers.

Both parties kept their day, and drew up their forces over against each other. Catulus had under his command twenty thousand and three hundred men: Marius had thirty-two thousand. The latter were drawn up in the two wings, and Catulus was in the centre. Sylla, who was present at the battle, gives us this account: and it is reported, that Ma-

rius

rius made this disposition, in hopes of breaking the Cimbrian battalions with the wings only, and securing to himself and his soldiers the honour of the victory, before Catulus could have opportunity to come up to the charge; it being usual in a large front, for the wings to advance before the main body. This is confirmed by the defence which Catulus made of his own behaviour, in which he insisted much on the malignant designs of Marius against him.

The Cimbrian infantry marched out of their trenches without noise, and formed so as to have their flanks equal to their front; each side of the square extending to thirty furlongs. Their cavalry, to the number of fifteen thousand, issued forth in great splendor. Their helmets represented the heads* and open jaws of strange and frightful wild beasts: on these were fixed high plumes†, which made the men appear taller. Their breast-plates were of polished iron, and their shields were white and glittering. Each man had two-edged darts to fight with at a distance, and when they came hand to hand, they used broad and heavy swords. In this engagement they did not fall directly upon the front of the Romans, but wheeling to the right, they endeavoured by little and little to enclose the enemy between them and their infantry, who were posted on the left. The Roman generals perceived their artful design, but were not able to restrain their own men. One happened to cry out, that the enemy fled, and they all set off upon the pursuit. In the mean time, the Barbarian foot came on, like a vast sea. Marius having purified, lifted his hands towards heaven, and vowed an hecatomb to the gods; and Catulus, in the same posture, promised to consecrate a temple

* Πρωτομην signifies the bust or head either of man or animal.

† Λοφος πτερωτος, or a tuft in the form of a wing, literally a plume of feathers.

to the fortune of that day. As Marius sacrificed on this occasion, it is said that the entrails were no sooner shewn to him, than he cried out with a loud voice, "The victory is mine."

However, when the battle was joined, an accident happened, which, as Sylla writes*, appeared to be intended by heaven to humble Marius. A prodigious dust, it seems, arose, which hid both armies. Marius moving first to the charge, had the misfortune to miss the enemy; and having passed by their army, wandered about with his troops a long time in the field. In the mean time, the good fortune of Catulus directed the enemy to him, and it was his legions (in which Sylla tells us he fought) to whose lot the chief conflict fell. The heat of the weather, and the sun, which shone full in the faces of the Cimbri, fought for the Romans. Those Barbarians, being bred in shady and frozen countries, could bear the severest cold, but were not proof against heat. Their bodies soon ran down with sweat; they drew their breath with difficulty, and were forced to hold up their shields to shade their faces. Indeed, this battle was fought not long after the summer solstice, and the Romans keep a festival for it on the third of the Calends of August, then called Sextilis. The dust too, which hid the enemy, helped to encourage the Romans. For, as they could have no distinct view of the vast numbers of their antagonists, they ran to the charge, and were come to close engagement before the sight of such multitudes could give them any impressions of terror. Besides the Romans were so strengthened by labour and exercise, that not one of them was observed to sweat or be out of breath, notwithstanding the suffocating heat and the violence of the encounter. So Catulus himself is said to have written, in commendation of his soldiers.

* It is a misfortune that Catulus's history of his consulship, and a greater, that Sylla's commentaries, are lost.

The greatest and best part of the enemy's troops were cut to pieces upon the spot; those who fought in the front fastened themselves together, by long cords run through their belts, to prevent their ranks from being broken *. The Romans drove back the fugitives to their camp, where they found the most shocking spectacle. The women standing in mourning by their carriages, killed those that fled; some their husbands, some their brothers, others their fathers. They strangled their little children with their own hands, and threw them under the wheels and horses feet. Last of all, they killed themselves. They tell us of one that was seen slung from the top of a waggon, with a child hanging at each heel. The men, for want of trees, tied themselves by the neck, some to the horns of the oxen, others to their legs, and then pricked them on; that by the starting of the beasts they might be strangled or torn to pieces. But, though they were so industrious to destroy themselves, above sixty thousand were taken prisoners, and the killed were said to have been twice the number.

Marius's soldiers plundered the baggage; but the other spoils, with the ensigns and trumpets, they tell us, were brought to the camp of Catulus; and heavailed himself chiefly of this, as a proof that the victory belonged to him. A hot dispute, it seems, arose between his troops and those of Marius, which had the best claim; and the ambassadors from Parma, who happened to be there, were chosen arbitrators. Catulus's soldiers led them to the field of battle to see the dead, and clearly proved that they were killed by their javelins, because Catulus had taken care to have the shafts inscribed with his name. Nevertheless, the whole honour of the day was ascribed to

* This was an absurd contrivance to keep their ranks. But they intended also to have bound their prisoners with the cords after the battle.

Marius, on account of his former victory, and his present authority. Nay, such was the applause of the populace, that they called him *the third founder of Rome*, as having rescued her from a danger not less dreadful than that from the Gauls. In their rejoicings at home with their wives and children, at supper they offered libations to Marius along with the gods, and would have given him alone the honour of both triumphs. He declined this indeed, and triumphed with Catulus, being desirous to shew his moderation after such extraordinary instances of success. Or perhaps he was afraid of some opposition from Catulus's soldiers, who might not have suffered him to triumph, if he had deprived their general of his share of the honour.

In this manner his fifth consulate passed. And now he aspired to a sixth, with more ardour than any man had ever shewn for his first. He courted the people, and endeavoured to ingratiate himself with the meanest of them by such servile condescensions, as were not only unsuitable to his dignity, but even contrary to his disposition; assuming an air of gentleness and complaisance, for which nature never meant him. It is said, that in civil affairs and the tumultuous proceedings of the populace, his ambition had given him an uncommon timidity. That intrepid firmness which he discovered in battle, forsook him in the assemblies of the people, and the least breath of praise or dislike disconcerted him in his address. Yet we are told, that when he had granted the freedom of the city to a thousand Camerians, who had distinguished themselves by their behaviour in the wars, and his proceedings was found fault with as contrary to law, he said, "The law spoke too softly to be heard amidst the din of arms." However, the noise that he dreaded, and which robbed him of his presence of mind, was that of popular assemblies. In war he easily obtained the highest rank, because they could not do without him; but

but in the administration he was sometimes in danger of losing the honours he solicited. In these cases he had recourse to the partiality of the multitude; and had no scruple of making his honesty subservient to his ambition.

By these means he made himself obnoxious to the Patricians. But he was most afraid of Metellus, whom he had treated with ingratitude. Besides, Metellus was a man, who, from a spirit of true virtue, was naturally an enemy to those who endeavoured to gain the populace by evil arts, and directed all their measures to please them. Marius, therefore, was very desirous to get him out of the way. For this purpose he associated with Glaucias and Saturninus, two of the most daring and turbulent men in Rome, who had the indigent and seditious part of the people at their command. By their assistance he got several laws enacted; and having planted many of his soldiers in the assemblies, his faction prevailed, and Metellus was overborne.

Rutilius*, in other respects a man of credit and veracity, but particularly prejudiced against Marius, tells us, he obtained his sixth consulate by large sums which he distributed among the tribes, and having thrown out Metellus by dint of money, prevailed with them to elect Valerius Flaccus, rather his servant than his colleague. The people had never before bestowed so many consulates on any one man, except Valerius Corvinus†. And there was this great

* P. Rutilius Rufus was consul the year before the second consulship of Marius. He wrote his own life in Latin, and a Roman history in Greek. Cicero mentions him on several occasions, as a man of honour and probity. He was exiled six or seven years after this sixth consulship of Marius. Sylla would have recalled him, but he refused to return.

† Valerius Corvinus was elected consul, when he was only twenty-three years of age, in the year of Rome four hundred and six; and he was appointed consul the sixth time in the year of Rome four hundred and fifty-two.

difference, that between the first and sixth consulate of Corvinus, there was an interval of forty-five years; whereas Marius, after his first, was carried through five more without interruption, by one tide of fortune.

In the last of these he exposed himself to much hatred, by abetting Saturninus in all his crimes; particularly in his murder of Nonius, whom he slew because he was his competitor for the tribuneship. Saturninus being appointed tribune of the people, proposed an Agrarian law, in which there was a clause expressly providing, "That the senate should come and swear in full assembly, to confirm whatever the people should decree, and not oppose them in any thing." Marius in the senate pretended to declare against this clause, asserting that, "He would never take such an oath, and that he believed no wise man would. For, supposing the law not a bad one, it would be a disgrace to the senate to be compelled to give sanction to a thing which they should be brought to only by choice or persuasion."

These, however, were not his real sentiments; but he was laying for Metellus an unavoidable snare. As to himself, he reckoned that a great part of virtue and prudence consisted in dissimulation, therefore he made but small account of his declaration in the senate. At the same time, knowing Metellus to be a man of immoveable firmness, who, with Pindar, esteemed *Truth the spring of heroic virtue*, he hoped, by refusing the oath himself, to draw in him to refuse it too; which would infallibly expose him to the implacable resentment of the people. The event answered his expectation. Upon Metellus's declaring that he would not take the oath, the senate was dismissed. A few days after, Saturninus summoned the fathers to appear in the *Forum*, and swear to that article, and Marius made his appearance among the rest. A profound silence ensued,
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and all eyes were fixed upon him, when bidding adieu to the fine things he had said in the senate, he told the audience, "That he was not so opinionated, as
" to pretend absolutely to prejudge a matter of such
" importance, and therefore he would take the oath,
" and keep the law too, provided it was a law." This proviso he added, merely to give a colour to his impudence, and was sworn immediately*.

The people, charmed with his compliance, expressed their sense of it in loud acclamations; while the Patricians were abashed, and held his double dealing in the highest detestation. Intimidated by the people, they took the oath, however, in their order, till it came to Metellus. But Metellus, though his friends exhorted and entreated him to be conformable, and not expose himself to those dreadful penalties which Saturninus had provided for such as refused, shrunk not from the dignity of his resolution, nor took the oath. That great man abode by his principles; he was ready to suffer the greatest calamities, rather than do a dishonourable thing; and as he quitted the *Forum*, he said to those about him, "To
" do an ill action, is base; to do a good one, which
" involves you in no danger, is nothing more than
" common: but it is the property of a good man,
" to do great and good things, though he risques
" every thing by it."

Saturninus then caused a decree to be made, that the consuls should declare Metellus a person inter-

* Thus Marius made the first steps towards the ruin of the Roman constitution, which happened not long after. If the senate were to swear to confirm whatever the people should decree, whether bad or good, they ceased to have a weight in the scale, and the government became a democracy. And, as the people grew so corrupt as to take the highest price that was offered them, absolute power must be advancing with hasty strides. Indeed, a nation which has no principle of public virtue left, is not fit to be governed by any other.

dicted the use of fire and water, whom no man should admit into his house. And the meanest of the people adhering to that party, were ready even to assassinate him. The nobility, now anxious for Metellus, ranged themselves on his side; but he would suffer no sedition on his account. Instead of that, he adopted a wise measure, which was to leave the city. "For," said he, "either matters will take a better turn, and the people repent and recall me; or if they remain the same, it will be best to be at a distance from Rome." What regard and what honours were paid Metellus during his banishment, and how he lived at Rhodes in the study of philosophy, it will be more convenient to mention in his life.

Marius was so highly obliged to Saturninus for this last piece of service, that he was forced to connive at him, though he now ran out into every act of insolence and outrage. He did not consider that he was giving the reins to a destroying fury, who was making his way in blood to absolute power and the subversion of the state. All this while Marius was desirous to keep fair with the nobility, and at the same time to retain the good graces of the people; and this led him to act a part, than which nothing can be conceived more ungenerous and deceitful. One night some of the first men in the state came to his house, and pressed him to declare against Saturninus; but at that very time he let in Saturninus at another door unknown to them. Then pretending a disorder in his bowels, he went from one party to the other; and this trick he played several times over, still exasperating both against each other. At last the senate and the equestrian order rose in a body, and expressed their indignation in such strong terms, that he was obliged to send a party of soldiers into the *Forum*, to suppress the sedition. Saturninus, Glaucias, and the rest of the cabal fled into the Capitol. There they were besieged, and at last forced to yield for want
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of water, the pipes being cut off. When they could hold out no longer they called for Marius, and surrendered themselves to him upon the public faith. He tried every art to save them, but nothing would avail; they no sooner came down into the *Forum*, than they were all put to the sword*. He was now become equally odious both to the nobility and the commons, so that when the time for the election of censors came on, contrary to expectation, he declined offering himself, and permitted others of less note to be chosen. But though it was his fear of a repulse that made him sit still, he gave it another colour; pretending he did not chuse to make himself obnoxious to the people, by a severe inspection into their lives and manners.

An edict was now proposed for the recall of Metellus. Marius opposed it with all his power, but finding his endeavours fruitless, he gave up the point, and the people passed the bill with pleasure. Unable to bear the sight of Metellus, he contrived to take a voyage to Cappadocia and Galatia, under pretence of offering some sacrifices which he had vowed to the mother of the gods. But he had another reason which was not known to the people. Incapable of making any figure in peace, and unversed in political knowledge, he saw that all his greatness arose from war, and that in a state of inaction its lustre began to fade. He, therefore, studied to raise new commotions. If he could but stir up the Asiatic kings, and particularly Mithridates, who seemed most inclined to quarrel, he hoped soon to be appointed general against him, and to have an opportunity to fill the city with new triumphs, as well as to enrich his own house with the spoils of Pontus and the wealth of its monarch. For this reason, though Mithridates treated him in the politest and

* The people dispatched them with clubs and stones.

most respectful manner, he was not in the least mollified, but addressed him in the following terms—
 “ Mithridates, your business is, either to render
 “ yourself more powerful than the Romans, or to
 “ submit quietly to their commands.” The king
 was quite amazed. He had often heard of the liberty of speech that prevailed among the Romans, but that was the first time he experienced it.

At his return to Rome he built a house near the *Forum*; either for the convenience of those who wanted to wait upon him, which was the reason he assigned; or because he hoped to have a greater concourse of people at his gates. In this, however, he was mistaken. He had not those graces of conversation, that engaging address, which others were masters of; and therefore, like a mere implement of war, he was neglected in time of peace. He was not so much concerned at the preference given to others, but that which Sylla had gained afflicted him exceedingly; because he was rising by means of the envy which the Patricians bore *him*, and his first step to the administration was a quarrel with him. But when Bocchus, king of Numidia, now declared an ally of the Romans, erected in the Capitol some figures of Victory adorned with trophies, and placed by them a set of golden statues, which represented him delivering Jugurtha into the hands of Sylla, Marius was almost distracted. He considered this as an act by which Sylla wanted to rob him of the glory of his achievements, and prepared to demolish those monuments by force. Sylla, on his part, as strenuously opposed him.

This sedition was just upon the point of flaming out, when the *war of the Allies* * intervened, and put a stop to it. The most warlike and most populous nations of Italy conspired against Rome, and

* This was also called the Marrian war. It broke out in the six hundred and sixty-second year of Rome.

Vid. FLOR. L. iii. c. 18.

were

were not far from subverting the empire. Their strength consisted not only in the weapons and valour of their soldiers, but in the courage and capacity of their generals, who were not inferior to those of Rome.

This war, so remarkable for the number of battles and the variety of fortune that attended it, added as much to the reputation of Sylla, as it diminished that of Marius. The latter now seemed slow in his attacks, as well as dilatory in his resolutions; whether it were that age had quenched his martial heat and vigour (for he was now above sixty-five years old), or that, as he himself said, his nerves being weak, and his body unwieldy, he underwent the fatigues of war, which were in fact above his strength, merely upon a point of honour. However, he beat the enemy in a great battle, wherein he killed at least six thousand of them, and through the whole he took care to give them no advantage over him. Nay, he suffered them to draw a line about him, to ridicule, and challenge him to the combat, without being in the least concerned at it. It is reported, that when Popedius Silo, an officer of the greatest eminence and authority among the allies, said to him, "If you are a great general, Marius, come down and fight us;" he answered, "If you are a great general, Silo, make me come down and fight." Another time, when the enemy gave the Romans a good opportunity of attacking them, and they were afraid to embrace it, after both parties were retired, he called his soldiers together, and made this short speech to them—"I know not which to call the greatest cowards, the enemy or you; for neither dare they face your backs, nor you theirs." At last, pretending to be incapacitated for the service by his infirmities, he laid down the command.

Yet when the war with the confederates drew to an end, and several applications were made, through
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the popular orators, for the command against Mithridates, the tribune Sulpitius, a bold and daring man, contrary to all expectation, brought forth Marius, and nominated him proconsul and general in the Mithridatic war. The people, upon this, were divided, some accepting Marius, while others called for Sylla, and bade Marius go to the warm baths of Baiae for cure, since, by his own confession, he was quite worn out with age and defluxions. It seems, Marius had a fine *Villa* at Misenum, more luxuriously and effeminately furnished, than became a man who had been at the head of so many armies, and had directed so many campaigns. Cornelia is said to have bought this house for seventy-five thousand drachmas; yet, no long time after, Lucius Lucullus gave for it five hundred thousand two hundred: to such a height did expence and luxury rise in the course of a few years.

Marius, however, affecting to shake off the infirmities of age, went every day into the *Campus Martius*; where he took the most robust exercises along with the young men, and shewed himself nimble in his arms, and active on horseback, though his years had now made him heavy and corpulent. Some were pleased with these things, and went to see the spirit he exerted in the exercises. But the more sensible sort of people, when they beheld it, could not help pitying the avarice and ambition of a man, who, though raised from poverty to opulence, and from the meanest condition to greatness, knew not how to set bounds to his good fortune. It shocked them to think, that this man, instead of being happy in the admiration he had gained, and enjoying his present possessions in peace, as if he were in want of all things, was going, at so great an age, and after so many honours and triumphs, to Cappadocia and the Euxine sea, to fight with Archelaus and Neoptolemus, the lieutenants of Mithridates. As for the reason which Marius assigned for this step, namely, that
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he wanted himself to train up his so to war, it was perfectly trifling.

The commonwealth had been sickly for some time, and now her disorder came to a crisis. Marius had found a fit instrument for her ruin in the audacity of Sulpitius. A man who in other respects admired and imitated Saturninus, but considered him as too timid and dilatory in his proceedings. Determined to commit no such error, he got six hundred men of the equestrian order about him, as his guard, whom he called his *Anti-senate*.

One day, while the consuls* were holding an assembly of the people, Sulpitius came upon them with his assassins. The consuls immediately fled, but he seized the son of one of them, and killed him on the spot. Sylla (the other consul) was pursued but escaped into the house of Marius, which nobody thought of; and when the pursuers were gone by, it is said that Marius himself let him out at a back gate, from whence he got safe to the camp. But Sylla, in his commentaries, denies that he fled to the house of Marius. He writes, that he was taken thither to debate about certain edicts, which they wanted him to pass against his will: that he was surrounded with drawn swords, and carried forcibly to that house: and that at last he was removed from thence to the *Forum*, where he was compelled to revoke the order of vacation†, which had been issued by him and his colleague.

Sulpitius, now carrying all before him, decreed the command of the army to Marius; and Marius preparing for his march, sent two tribunes to Sylla, with orders that he should deliver up the army to

* Sylla and Pompeius Rufus were consuls. It was the son of the latter that was slain.

† If that order had not been revoked, no public business could have been done; consequently Marius could not have been appointed to the command against Mithridates.

them.

them. But Sylla, instead of resigning his charge, animated his troops to revenge, and led them to the number of thirty thousand foot, and five thousand horse, directly against Rome. As for the tribunes whom Marius had sent to demand the army of Sylla, they fell upon them and cut them to pieces. Marius, on the other hand, put to death many of Sylla's friends in Rome, and proclaimed liberty to all slaves that would take up arms in his behalf. But, we are told, there were but three that accepted this offer. He could therefore make but a slight resistance; Sylla soon entered the city, and Marius was forced to fly for his life.

As soon as he had quitted Rome, he was abandoned by those that had accompanied him. They dispersed themselves as they could; and night coming on, he retired to a little house he had near Rome, called Salonium. Thence he sent his son to some neighbouring farms of his father-in-law Mutius, to provide necessaries. However, he did not wait for his return, but went down to Ostia, where a friend of his, called Numerius, had prepared him a ship, and embarked, having with him only Granius, his wife's son by a former husband.

When young Marius had reached his grandfather's estate, he hastened to collect such things as he wanted, and to pack them up. But before he could make an end, he was overtaken by day-light, and was near being discovered by the enemy; for a party of horse had hastened thither, on suspicion that Marius might be lurking thereabouts. The bailiff of those grounds got sight of them in time, and hid the young man in a cart-load of beans. Then he put to his team, and driving up to the party of horsemen, passed on to Rome. Thus young Marius was conveyed to his wife, who supplied him with some necessaries; and as soon as it grew dark, he made for the sea, where finding a ship ready to sail for Africa, he embarked, and passed over to that country.

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In the mean time, the elder Marius with a favourable gale coasted Italy. But being afraid of falling into the hands of Geminius, a leading man in Taracina, who was his professed enemy, he directed the mariners to keep clear of that place. The mariners were willing enough to oblige him; but, the wind shifting on a sudden, and blowing hard from sea, they were afraid they should not be able to weather the storm. Besides, Marius was indisposed and sea-sick: they concluded therefore to make land, and with great difficulty got to Circaeum. There finding that the tempest increased, and their provisions began to fail, they went on shore, and wandered up and down, they knew not whither. Such is the method taken by persons in great perplexity; they shun the present as the greatest evil, and seek for hope in the dark events of futurity. The land was their enemy, the sea was the same: it was dangerous to meet with men; it was dangerous also not to meet with them, because of their extreme want of provisions. In the evening they met with a few herdsmen, who had nothing to give them; but happening to know Marius, they desired he would immediately quit those parts, for a little before they had seen a number of horse upon that very spot riding about in search of him. He was now involved in all manner of distress, and those about him ready to give out through hunger. In this extremity he turned out of the road, and threw himself into a thick wood, where he passed the night in great anxiety. Next day, in distress for want of refreshment, and willing to make use of the little strength he had, before it quite forsook him, he moved down to the sea side. As he went, he encouraged his companions not to desert him, and earnestly intreated them to wait for the accomplishment of his last hope, for which he reserved himself, upon the credit of some old prophecies. He told them, that when he was very young, and lived in the country,

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an eagle's nest fell into his lap, with seven young ones in it*. His parents, surpris'd at the sight, apply'd to the diviners, who answered, that their son would be the most illustrious of men, and that he would seven times attain the highest office and authority in his country.

Some say, this had actually happened to Marius, others are of opinion, that the persons who were then about him, and heard him relate it, on that as well as several other occasions, during his exile, gave credit to it, and committed it to writing, though nothing could be more fabulous. For an eagle has not more than two young ones at a time. Nay, even Musaeus is accused of a false assertion, when he says, *The eagle lays three eggs, sits on two, and hatches but one.* However this may be, it is agreed on all hands, that Marius, during his banishment and in the greatest extremities, often said, "he should certainly come to a seventh consulship."

They were now not above two miles and a half from the city of Minturnae, when they espied at some considerable distance a troop of horse making towards them, and at the same time happened to see two barks sailing near the shore. They ran down, therefore, to the sea, with all the speed and strength they had; and when they had reached it, plunged in, and swam towards the ships. Granius gained one of them, and pass'd over to an opposite island, called Ænaria: as for Marius, who was very heavy and unwieldy, he was borne with much difficulty by two servants above the water, and put into the other ship. The party of horse were by this time come to the sea side, from whence they called to the ship's crew, either to put ashore immediately, or else to throw Marius overboard, and then they might go where they pleas'd. Marius begged of them with tears to save him; and the masters of the vessel, after consult-

* Marius might as well avail himself of this fable, as of the prophecies of Martha.

ing together a few moments, in which they changed their opinions several times resolved to make answer "That they would not deliver up Marius." Upon this, the soldiers rode off in a great rage; and the sailors, soon departing from their resolution, made for land. They cast anchor in the mouth of the river Liris, where it overflows, and forms a marsh, and advised Marius, who was much harassed, to go and refresh himself on shore, till they could get a better wind. This they said would happen at a certain hour when the wind from the sea would fall, and that from the marshes rise. Marius believing them, they helped him ashore; and he seated himself on the grass, little thinking of what was going to befall him. For the crew immediately went on board again, weighed anchor, and sailed away; thinking it neither honourable to deliver up Marius, nor safe to protect him.

Thus deserted by all the world, he sat a good while on the shore, in silent stupefaction. At length recovering himself with much difficulty, he rose and walked in a disconsolate manner through those wild and devious places, till, by scrambling over deep bogs and ditches full of water and mud, he came to the cottage of an old man who worked in the fens. He threw himself at his feet, and begged him "to save and shelter a man, who, if he escaped the present danger, would reward him far beyond his hopes." The cottager, whether he knew him before, or was then moved with his venerable aspect, told him, "his hut would be sufficient if he wanted only to repose himself; but if he was wandering about to elude the search of his enemies, he would hide him in a place much safer and more retired." Marius desiring him to do so, the poor man took him into the fens, and bade him hide himself in a hollow place by the river, where he laid upon him a quantity of reeds and other light things, that would cover, but not oppress him.

In

In a short time, however, he was disturbed with a tumultuous noise from the cottage. For Geminus had sent a number of men from Tarracina in pursuit of him; and one party coming that way, loudly threatened the old man, for having entertained and concealed an enemy of the Romans. Marius, upon this, quitted the cave; and having stript himself, plunged into the bog, amidst the thick water and mud. This expedient rather discovered than screened him. They hauled him out naked, and covered with dirt, and carried him to Minturnae, where they delivered him to the magistrates. For proclamation had been made through all those towns that a general search should be made for Marius, and that he should be put to death, wherever he was found. The magistrates, however, thought proper to consider of it, and set him under a guard to the house of Fannia. This woman had an inveterate aversion to Marius. When she was divorced from her husband Tinnius, she demanded her whole fortune, which was considerable, and Tinnius alledging adultery, the cause was brought before Marius, who was then consul for the sixth time. Upon the trial it appeared, that Fannia was a woman of bad fame before her marriage; and that Tinnius was no stranger to her character when he married her. Besides he had lived with her a considerable time in the state of matrimony. The consul, of course, reprimanded them both. The husband was ordered to restore his wife's fortune, and the wife, as a proper mark of her disgrace, was sentenced to pay a fine of four drachmas.

Fannia, however, forgetful of female resentment, entertained and encouraged Marius to the utmost of her power. He acknowledged her generosity, and at the same time expressed the greatest vivacity and confidence. The occasion of this was an auspicious omen. When he was conducted to her house, as he approached, and the gate was opened, an ass came out to drink at a neighbouring fountain. The animal,
with

with a vivacity uncommon to its species, fixed its eyes stedfastly on Marius, then brayed aloud, and as it passed him, skipped wantonly along. The conclusion which he drew from this omen was, that the gods meant he should seek his safety by sea; for that it was not in consequence of any natural thirst, that the ass went to the fountain*. This circumstance he mentioned to Fannia, and having ordered the door of his chamber to be secured, he went to rest.

However, the magistrates and council of Minturnae concluded that Marius should immediately be put to death. No citizen would undertake this office; but a dragoon, either a Gaul or a Cimbrian (for both are mentioned in history), went up to him, sword in hand, with an intent to dispatch him. The chamber in which he lay was somewhat gloomy, and a light, they tell you, glanced from the eyes of Marius, which darted on the face of the assassin; while at the same time, he heard a solemn voice saying, "Dost thou dare to kill Marius?" Upon this the assassin threw down his sword, and fled, crying "I cannot kill Marius." The people of Minturnae were struck with astonishment—pity and remorse ensued—should they put to death the preserver of Italy? was it not even a disgrace to them that they did not contribute to his relief? "Let him go," said they; "let the exile go, and await his destiny in some other region! it is time we should deprecate the anger of the gods, who have refused the poor, the naked wanderer, the common privileges of hospitality!" Under the influence of this enthusiasm, they immediately conducted him to the sea-coast. Yet in the midst of their officious expedition they met with some delay. The Marician grove, which they hold sacred, and suffer nothing that enters it to be removed, lay immediately in their way.

* All that was extraordinary in this circumstance was, that the ass, like the sheep, is seldom seen to drink.

Consequently they could not pass through it, and to go round it would be tedious. At last an old man of the company cried out, that no place, however religious, was inaccessible, if it could contribute to the preservation of Marius. No sooner had he said this, than he took some of the baggage in his hand, and marched through the place. The rest followed with the same alacrity, and when Marius came to the sea-coast, he found a vessel provided for him by one Belæus. Some time after he presented a picture representing this event to the temple of Marica*. When Marius set sail, the wind drove him to the island of Ænaria, where he found Granius and some other friends, and with them he sailed for Africa. Being in want of fresh water, they were obliged to put in at Sicily, where the Roman quaestor kept such strict watch, that Marius very narrowly escaped, and no fewer than sixteen of the watermen were killed. From thence he immediately sailed for the island of Meninx, where he first heard that his son had escaped with Cethegus, and was gone to implore the succour of Hiempsal, king of Numidia. This gave him some encouragement, and immediately he ventured for Carthage.

The Roman governor in Africa was Sextilius. He had neither received favour nor injury from Marius; but the exile hoped for something from his pity. He was just landed with a few of his men, when an officer came and thus addressed him: "Marius, I come from the praetor Sextilius, to tell you, that he forbids you to set foot in Africa. If you obey not, he will support the senate's decree, and treat you as a public enemy." Marius, upon hearing this was struck dumb with grief and indignation. He uttered not a word for some time, but stood regarding the officer with a menacing aspect. At length, the officer asked him, what answer he

* Virgil mentions this nymph, Æn. 7.

—Et nympha genitum Laurente Marica,

should carry to the governor. "Go, and tell him," said the unfortunate man, with a sigh, "that thou hast seen the exiled Marius sitting on the ruins of Carthage*." Thus, in the happiest manner in the world, he proposed the fate of that city, and his own, as warnings to the praetor.

In the mean time, Hiempfal, king of Numidia, was unresolved how to act with respect to young Marius. He treated him in an honourable manner at his court, but whenever he desired leave to depart, found some pretence or other to detain him. At the same time it was plain, that these delays did not proceed from any intention of serving him. An accident, however, set him free. The young man was handsome. One of the king's concubines was affected with his misfortunes. Pity soon turned to love. At first he rejected the woman's advances: but when he saw no other way to gain his liberty, and found that her regards were rather delicate than gross, he accepted the tender of her heart; and by her means escaped with his friends, and came to his father.

After the first salutations, as they walked along the shore, they saw two scorpions fighting. This appeared to Marius an ill omen; they went, therefore, on board a fishing-boat, and made for Cercina, an island not far distant from the continent. They were scarcely got out to sea, when they saw a party of the king's horse on full speed towards the place where they embarked: so that Marius thought he never escaped a more instant danger.

He was now informed, that while Sylla was engaged in Boeotia with the lieutenants of Mithridates, a quarrel had happened between the consuls† at Rome, and that they had recourse to arms. Octavius having

* There is not, perhaps, any thing nobler, or a greater proof of genius, than this saying, in Marius's whole life.

† The year of Rome 666, and eighty-five years before Christ. Cinna was for recalling the exiles, and Octavius was against it.

the advantage, drove out Cinna, who was aiming at absolute power, and appointed Cornelius Merula consul in his room. Cinna collected forces in other parts of Italy, and maintained the war against them. Marius, upon this news, determined to hasten to Cinna. He took with him some Maurusian horse which he had levied in Africa, and a few others that were come to him from Italy, in all not amounting to above a thousand men, and with this handful began his voyage. He arrived at a port of Tuscany called Telamon, and as soon as he was landed, proclaimed liberty to the slaves. The name of Marius brought down numbers of freemen too, husbandmen, shepherds, and such like, to the shore; the ablest of which he enlisted, and in a short time had a great army on foot, with which he filled forty ships. He knew Octavius to be a man of good principles, and disposed to govern agreeably to justice; but Cinna was obnoxious to his enemy Sylla, and at that time in open war against the established government. He resolved, therefore, to join Cinna with all his forces. Accordingly, he sent to acquaint him, that he considered him as consul, and was ready to obey his commands. Cinna accepted his offer, declared him proconsul, and sent him the *fascēs* and other ensigns of authority. But Marius declined them, alledging that such pomp did not become his ruined fortunes. Instead of that, he wore a mean garment, and let his hair grow as it had done from the day of his exile. He was now, indeed, upwards of seventy years old, but he walked with a pace affectedly slow. This appearance was intended to excite compassion. Yet his native fierceness, and something more, might be distinguished amidst all this look of misery; and it was evident that he was not so much humbled, as exasperated, by his misfortunes.

When he had saluted Cinna, and made a speech to the army, he immediately began his operations, and soon changed the face of affairs. In the first place,

place, he cut off the enemy's convoys with his fleet, plundered their storeships, and made himself master of the bread-corn. In the next place he coasted along, and seized the sea-port towns. At last, Ostia itself was betrayed to him. He pillaged the town, slew most of the inhabitants, and threw a bridge over the Tiber, to prevent the carrying of any provisions to Rome by sea. Then he marched to Rome, and posted himself upon the hill called Janiculum.

Mean while, the cause did not suffer so much by the incapacity of Octavius, as by his anxious and unseasonable attention to the laws. For when many of his friends advised him to enfranchise the slaves, he said, "He would not grant such persons the freedom of that city, in defence of whose constitution he shut out Marius."

But upon the arrival of Metellus, the son of that Metellus, who commanded in the African war, and was afterwards banished by Marius, the army within the walls leaving Octavius, applied to him, as the better officer, and intreated him to take the command; adding, that they should fight and conquer, when they had got an able and active general. Metellus, however, rejected their suit with indignation, and bade them go back to the consul; instead of which, they went over to the enemy. At the same time Metellus withdrew, giving up the city for lost.

As for Octavius, he stayed at the expence of certain Chaldaean diviners and expositors of the Sibylline books, who promised him that all would be well. Octavius was indeed one of the most upright men among the Romans: he supported his dignity as consul, without giving any ear to flatterers, and regarded the laws and ancient usages of his country as rules never to be departed from. Yet he had all the weakness of superstition, and spent more of his time with fortune-tellers and prognosticators, than with men of political or military abilities. However,

before Marius entered the city, Octavius was dragged from the tribunal and slain by persons commissioned for that purpose; and it is said, that a Chaldaean scheme was found in his bosom as he lay. It seems unaccountable, that of two such generals, as Marius and Octavius, the one should be saved, and the other ruined, by confidence in divination.

While affairs were in this posture, the senate assembled, and sent some of their own body to Cinna and Marius, with a request that they would come into the city, but spare the inhabitants. Cinna, as consul, received them, sitting in his chair of state, and gave them an obliging answer. But Marius stood by the consul's chair, and spoke not a word. He shewed, however, by the gloominess of his look, and the menacing sense of his eye, that he would soon fill the city with blood. Immediately after this, they moved forward towards Rome. Cinna entered the city with a strong guard: but Marius stopped at the gates, with a dissimulation dictated by his resentment. He said, "He was a banished man, and the laws prohibited his return. If his country wanted his service, she must repeal the law which drove him into exile." As if he had a real regard for the laws, or were entering a city still in possession of its liberty.

The people, therefore, were summoned to assemble for that purpose. But before three or four tribes had given their suffrages, he put off the mask, and, without waiting for the formality of a repeal, entered with a guard selected from the slaves that had repaired to his standard. These he called his Bardiaeans*. At the least word or sign given by Marius, they murdered all whom he marked for destruction. So that when Ancharius, a senator, and a man of Prætorian

* M. de Thou conjectured that we should read Bardyetae, because there was a fierce and barbarous people in Spain of that name. Some manuscripts have Ortiaeans.

dignity, saluted Marius, and he returned not the salutation, they killed him in his presence. After this they considered it as a signal to kill any man, who saluted Marius in the streets, and was not taken any notice of: so that his very friends were seized with horror, whenever they went to pay their respects to him.

When they had butchered great numbers, Cinna's revenge began to pall: it was satiated with blood.— But the fury of Marius seemed rather to increase: his appetite for slaughter was sharpened by indulgence, and he went on destroying all who gave him the least shadow of suspicion. Every road, every town was full of assassins, pursuing and hunting the unhappy victims.

On this occasion it was found that no obligations of friendship, no rights of hospitality can stand the shock of ill fortune. For there were very few who did not betray those that had taken refuge in their houses. The slaves of Cornutus, therefore, deserve the highest admiration. They hid their master in the house, and took a dead body out of the street from among the slain, and hanged it by the neck: then they put a gold ring on the finger, and shewed the corpse in that condition to Marius's executioners; after which they dressed it for the funeral, and buried it as their master's body. No one suspected the matter; and Cornutus, after being concealed as long as it was necessary, was conveyed by those servants into Galatia.

Mark Antony, the orator, likewise found a faithful friend, but did not save his life by it. This friend of his was in a low station of life: however, as he had one of the greatest men in Rome under his roof, he entertained him in the best manner he could, and often sent to a neighbouring tavern for wine for him. The vintner finding that the servant who fetched it, was something of a connoisseur in tasting the wine, and insisted on having bet-

ter, asked him, "Why he was not satisfied with the
"common new wine he used to have; but want-
"ed the best and the dearest?" The servant, in
the simplicity of his heart, told him, as his friend
and acquaintance, that the wine was for Mark An-
tony, who lay concealed in his master's house. As
soon as he was gone, the knowing vintner went him-
self to Marius, who was then at supper; and told
him, he could put Antony into his power: upon
which, Marius clapped his hands in the agitation
of joy, and would even have left his company, and
gone to the place himself, had not he been dissuaded
by his friends. However, he sent an officer, named
Annius, with some soldiers, and ordered him to
bring the head of Antony. When they came to
the house, Annus stood at the door, while the sol-
diers got up by a ladder into Antony's chamber.
When they saw him, they encouraged each other to
the execution; but such was the power of his
eloquence, when he pleaded for his life, that, so far
from laying hands on him, they stood motionless,
with dejected eyes, and wept. During this delay, An-
nius goes up, beholds Antony addressing the soldiers,
and the soldiers confounded by the force of his ad-
dress. Upon this he reproved them for their weak-
ness, and with his own hand cut off the orator's
head. Lutatius Catulus, the colleague of Marius,
who had jointly triumphed with him over the Cimbri,
finding that every intercessory effort was vain, shut
himself up in a narrow chamber, and suffered him-
self to be suffocated by the steam of a large coal fire.
When the bodies were thrown out and trod upon in
the streets—it was not pity they excited; it was hor-
ror and dismay. But what shocked the people much
more was the conduct of the Bardiaeans, who, after
they had murdered the masters of families, exposed
the nakedness of their children, and indulged their
passions with their wives. In short, their violence
and rapacity were beyond all restraint, till Cinna
and

and Sertorius determined, in council, to fall upon them in their sleep, and cut them off to a man.

At this time the tide of affairs took a sudden turn. News was brought that Sylla had put an end to the Mithridatic war, and that after having reduced the provinces, he was returning to Rome with a large army. This gave a short respite, a breathing from these inexpressible troubles; as the apprehensions of war had been universally prevalent. Marius was now chosen consul the seventh time, and as he was walking out on the calends of January, the first day of the year, he ordered Sextus Lucinus to be seized and thrown down the Tarpeian rock; a circumstance which occasioned an unhappy presage of approaching evils. The consul himself, worn out with a series of misfortunes and distress, found his faculties fail, and trembled at the approach of wars and conflicts. For he considered that it was not an Octavius, a Merula, the desperate leaders of a small sedition, he had to contend with, but Sylla, the conqueror of Mithridates, and the banisher of Marius. Thus agitated, thus revolving the miseries, the flights, the dangers he had experienced both by land and sea, his inquietude affected him even by night, and a voice seemed continually to pronounce in his ear:

Dread are the slumbers of the distant lion.

Unable to support the painfulness of watching, he had recourse to the bottle, and gave into those excesses which by no means suited his years. At last, when, by intelligence from sea, he was convinced of the approach of Sylla, his apprehensions were heightened to the greatest degree. The dread of his approach, the pain of continual anxiety threw him into a pleuritic fever; and in this state Posidonius, the philosopher, tells us, he found him when he went to speak to him on some affairs of his embassy. But Caius Piso the historian relates, that walking out with his friends one evening after supper, he gave them a
short

short history of his life, and, after expatiating on the uncertainty of fortune, concluded that it was beneath the dignity of a wise man to live in subjection to that fickle deity. Upon this, he took leave of his friends, and betaking himself to his bed, died seven days after. There are those who impute his death to the excess of his ambition, which, according to their account, threw him into a delirium; insomuch that he fancied he was carrying on the war against Mithridates, and uttered all the expressions usual in an engagement. Such was the violence of his ambition for that command!

Thus, at the age of seventy, distinguished by the unparalleled honour of seven consulships, and possessed of a more than regal fortune, Marius died with the chagrin of an unfortunate wretch, who had not obtained what he wanted.

Plato, at the point of death, congratulated himself, in the first place, that he was born a man; in the next place, that he had the happiness of being a Greek, not a Brute or Barbarian; and last of all, that he was the contemporary of Sophocles. Antipater of Tarsus, too, a little before his death, recollected the several advantages of his life, not forgetting even his successful voyage to Athens. In settling his accounts with Fortune, he carefully entered every agreeable circumstance in that excellent book of the mind, his memory. How much wiser, how much happier than those, who, forgetful of every blessing they have received, hang on the vain and deceitful hand of hope, and while they are idly grasping at future acquisitions, neglect the enjoyment of the present! though the future gifts of Fortune are not in their power, and though their present possessions are not in the power of Fortune, they look up to the former and neglect the latter. Their punishment, however, is not less just than it is certain. Before philosophy and the cultivation of reason have laid a proper foundation for the management of wealth and power, they

they pursue them with that avidity, which must for ever harass an undisciplined mind.

Marius died in the seventeenth day of his seventh consulship. His death was productive of the greatest joy in Rome, and the citizens looked upon it as an event that freed them from the worst of tyrannies. It was not long, however, before they found that they had changed an old and feeble tyrant, for one who had youth and vigour to carry his cruelties into execution. Such they found the son of Marius, whose sanguinary spirit shewed itself in the destruction of numbers of the nobility. His martial intrepidity and ferocious behaviour at first procured him the title of the son of Mars, but his conduct afterwards denominated him the son of Venus. When he was besieged in Praeneste, and had tried every little artifice to escape, he put an end to his life, that he might not fall into the hands of Sylla.

L Y S A N D E R.

AMONG the sacred deposits of the Acanthians at Delphi, one has this inscription, BRASIDAS AND THE ACANTHII TOOK THIS FROM THE ATHE-
NIANS*. Hence many are of opinion, that the marble statute which stands in the chapel of that nation just by the door, is the statue of Brasidas. But in fact it is Lyfander's, whom it perfectly represents, with his hair at full growth†, and a length of beard, both after the ancient fashion. It is not true, indeed, (as some would have it) that, while the Argives cut their hair in sorrow for the loss of a great battle‡, the Lacedaemonians began to let theirs grow in the joy of success. Nor did they first give into this cus-

* Brasidas, when general of the Lacedaemonians, persuaded the people of Acanthus to quit the Athenian interest, and to receive the Spartans into their city. In consequence of which he joined with them in consecrating certain Athenian spoils to Apollo. The statue, therefore, probably was his, though Plutarch thinks otherwise.
Vid. THUCYD. lib. iv.

† Why might not Brasidas, who was a Lacedaemonian, and a contemporary of Lyfander, be represented with long hair as well as he?

‡ This was the opinion of Herodotus, but perfectly groundless.

tom, when the Bacchiadae * fled from Corinth to Lacedaemon, and made a disagreeable appearance with their shorn locks. But it is derived from the institution of Lycurgus, who is reported to have said, that *long hair makes the handsome more beautiful, and the ugly more terrible.*

Aristoclitus †, the father of Lyfander, is said not to have been of the royal line, but to be descended from the Heraclidae by another family. As for Lyfander, he was bred up in poverty. No one conformed more freely to the Spartan discipline than he. He had a firm heart, above yielding to the charms of any pleasure, except that which results from the honour and success gained by great actions. And it was no fault at Sparta for young men to be led by this sort of pleasure. There they chuse to instil into their children an early passion for glory, and teach them to be much affected by disgrace, as well as elated by praise. And he that is not moved at these things, is despised as a person of a mean soul, unambitious of the improvements of virtue.

That love of fame, then, and jealousy of honour, which ever influenced Lyfander, were imbibed in his education; and consequently nature is not to be blamed for them. But the attention which he paid the great, in a manner that did not become a Spartan, and that easiness with which he bore the pride of power, whenever his own interest was concerned, may be ascribed to his disposition. This complaisance, however, is considered by some, as no small part of politics.

Aristotle ‡ somewhere observes, that great geniuses are generally of a melancholy turn, of which he gives instances in Socrates, Plato, and Hercules; and

* The Bacchiadae had kept up an oligarchy in Corinth for two hundred years, but were at last expelled by Cypselus, who made himself absolute master there. HERODOT. l. v.

† Pausanias calls him Aristocritus.

‡ Problem. sect. 30.

he tells us that Lyfander, though not in his youth, yet in his age was inclined to it. But what is most peculiar to his character, is, that though he bore poverty well himself, and was never either conquered or corrupted by money, yet he filled Sparta with it and with the love of it too, and robbed her of the glory she had of despising riches. For, after the Athenian war, he brought in a great quantity of gold and silver, but reserved no part of it for himself. And when Dionysius the tyrant sent his daughters some rich Sicilian garments, he refused them, alledging, "He was afraid those fine clothes would "make them look more homely." Being sent, however, soon after ambassador to Dionysius, the tyrant offered him two vests, that he might take one of them for his daughter; upon which, he said, "His daughter knew better how to chuse than he," and so took them both.

As the Peloponnesian war was drawn out to a great length, the Athenians, after their overthrow in Sicily, saw their fleets driven out of the sea, and themselves upon the verge of ruin. But Alcibiades, on his return from banishment, applied himself to remedy this evil, and soon made such a change, that the Athenians were once more equal in naval conflicts to the Lacedaemonians. Hereupon the Lacedaemonians began to be afraid in their turn, and resolved to prosecute the war with double diligence; and as they saw it required an able general, as well as great preparations, they gave the command at sea to Lyfander*.

When he came to Ephesus, he found that city well inclined to the Lacedaemonians, but in a bad condition as to its internal policy, and in danger of falling into the barbarous manners of the Persians; because it was near Lydia, and the king's lieutenants

* In the first year of the ninety-eighth Olympiad, four hundred and six years before Christ.

often visited it. Lyfander, therefore, having fixed his quarters there, ordered all his store-ships to be brought into their harbour, and built a dock for his galleys. By these means he filled their port with merchants; their market with business, and their houses and shops with money. So that from that time, and from his services, Ephesus began to conceive hopes of that greatness and splendor in which it now flourishes.

As soon as he heard that Cyrus, the king's son, was arrived at Sardis, he went thither to confer with him, and to acquaint him with the treachery of Tisaphernes. That viceroy had an order to assist the Lacedaemonians, and to destroy the naval force of the Athenians; but, by reason of his partiality to Alcibiades, he acted with no vigour, and sent such poor supplies, that the fleet was almost ruined. Cyrus was very glad to find this charge against Tisaphernes, knowing him to be a man of bad character in general, and an enemy to him in particular. By this and the rest of his conversation, but most of all by the respect and attention which he paid him, Lyfander recommended himself to the young prince, and engaged him to prosecute the war. When the Lacedaemonian was going to take his leave, Cyrus desired him, at an entertainment provided on that occasion, not to refuse the marks of his regard, but to ask some favour of him. "As you are so very kind to me," said Lyfander, "I beg you would add an *Obolus* to the seamens pay, so that instead of three *Oboli* a day, they may have four." Cyrus, charmed with this generous answer, made him a present of ten thousand pieces of gold*. Lyfander employed the money to increase the wages of his men, and by this encouragement in a short time almost employed the enemy's ships. For great numbers came over to him, when they knew they should have better

* *Darici.*

pay; and those who remained became indolent and mutinous, and gave their officers continual trouble. But though Lyfander had thus drained and weakened his adversaries, he was afraid to risque a naval engagement: knowing Alcibiades, not only to be a commander of extraordinary abilities, but to have the advantage in number of ships, as well as to have been successful in all the battles he had fought whether by sea or land.

However, when Alcibiades was gone from Samos to Phocaea, and had left the command of the fleet to his pilot Antiochus; the pilot, to insult Lyfander, and shew his own bravery, sailed to the harbour of Ephesus with two galleys only, where he hailed the Lacedaemonian fleet with a great deal of noise and laughter, and passed by in the most insolent manner imaginable. Lyfander, resenting the affront, got a few of his ships under sail, and gave chase. But when he saw the Athenians come to support Antiochus, he called up more of his galleys, and at last the action became general. Lyfander gained the victory, took fifteen ships, and erected a trophy. Hereupon, the people of Athens incensed at Alcibiades, took the command from him; and, as he found himself slighted and censured by the army at Samos too, he quitted it, and withdrew to Chersonesus. This battle, though not considerable in itself, was made so by the misfortunes of Alcibiades.

Lyfander now invited to Ephesus the boldest and most enterprising inhabitants of the Greek cities in Asia, and sowed among them the seeds of those aristocratical forms of government which afterwards took place. He encouraged them to enter into associations, and to turn their thoughts to politics, upon promise, that when Athens was once subdued, the popular government in their cities too should be dissolved, and the administration vested in them. His actions gave them a confidence in his promise. For those

those who were already attached to him by friendship or the rights of hospitality, he advanced to the highest honours and employments; not scrupling to join with them in any act of fraud or oppression, to satisfy their avarice and ambition. So that every one endeavoured to ingratiate himself with Lyfander; to him they paid their court; they fixed their hearts upon him, persuaded that nothing was too great for them to expect, while he had the management of affairs. Hence it was, that from the first they looked with an ill eye on Callicratidas, who succeeded him in the command of the fleet: and though they afterwards found him the best and most upright of men, they were not satisfied with his conduct, which they thought had too much of the Doric * plainness and sincerity. It is true, they admired the virtue of Callicratidas, as they would the beauty of some hero's statue; but they wanted the countenance, the indulgence and support they had experienced in Lyfander, insomuch that when he left them, they were quite dejected, and melted into tears.

Indeed, he took every method he could think of, to strengthen their aversion to Callicratidas. He even sent back to Sardis the remainder of the money, which Cyrus had given him for the supply of the fleet, and bade his successor go and ask for it, as he had done, or contrive some other means for the maintenance of his forces. And when he was upon the point of sailing, he made this declaration, "I deliver to you a fleet that is mistress of the seas." Callicratidas, willing to shew the insolence and vanity of his boast, said, "Why do not you then take Samos on the left, and sail round to Miletus, and deliver the fleet to me there? for we need not be afraid of passing by our enemies in that island, if

* Dacier refers this to the Dorian music. But the Doric manners had a simplicity in them, as well as the music.

"we are masters of the seas." Lyfander made only this superficial answer; "You have the command of the ships, and not I;" and immediately set sail for Peloponnesus.

Callicratidas was left in great difficulties. For he had not brought money from home with him, nor did he chuse to raise contributions from the cities, which were already distressed. The only way left, therefore, was to go, as Lyfander had done, and beg it of the king's lieutenants. And no one was more unfit for such an office, than a man of his free and great spirit, who thought any loss that Grecians might sustain from Grecians, preferable to an abject attendance at the doors of Barbarians, who had indeed a great deal of gold, but nothing else to boast of. Necessity, however, forced him into Lydia; where he went directly to the palace of Cyrus, and bade the porters tell him, that Callicratidas, the Spartan admiral, desired to speak with him. "Stranger," said one of the fellows, "Cyrus is not at leisure; he is drinking." "'Tis very well," said Callicratidas, with great simplicity, "I will wait here till he has done." But when he found that these people considered him as a rustic, and only laughed at him, he went away. He came a second time, and could not gain admittance. And now he could bear it no longer, but returned to Ephesus, venting execrations against those who first cringed to the Barbarians, and taught them to be insolent on account of their wealth. At the same time he protested, that as soon as he was got back to Sparta, he would use his utmost endeavours to reconcile the Grecians among themselves, and to make them formidable to the Barbarians, instead of their poorly petitioning those people for assistance against each other. But this Callicratidas, who had sentiments so worthy of a Spartan, and who, in point of justice, magnanimity and valour, was equal to the best of the Greeks, fell soon after in a sea-fight at Arginusae, where he lost the day.

Affairs

Affairs being now in a declining condition, the confederates sent an ambassy to Sparta, to desire that the command of the navy might be restored to Lyfander, promising to support the cause with much greater vigour, if he had the direction of it. Cyrus too made the same requisition. But as the law forbade the same person to be chosen admiral twice, and yet the Lacedaemonians were willing to oblige their allies, they vested a nominal command in one Aracus, while Lyfander, who was called only lieutenant, had the power. His arrival was very agreeable to those who had, or wanted to have, the chief authority in the Asiatic cities: for he had long given them hopes, that the democracy would be abolished, and the government devolve entirely upon them.

As for those who loved an open and generous proceeding, when they compared Lyfander and Calli-crattidas, the former appeared only a man of craft and subtlety, who directed his operations by a set of artful expedients, and measured the value of justice by the advantage it brought; who, in short, thought interest the thing of superior excellence, and that nature had made no difference between truth and falsehood, but either was recommended by its use. When he was told, it did not become the descendants of Hercules, to adopt such artful expedients, he turned it off with a jest, and said, "Where the lion's skin falls short, it must be eked out with the fox's."

There was a remarkable instance of this subtlety, in his behaviour at Miletus. His friends and others with whom he had connections there, who had promised to abolish the popular government, and to drive out all that favoured it, had changed their minds, and reconciled themselves to their adversaries. In public he pretended to rejoice at the event, and to cement the union; but in private he loaded them with reproaches, and excited them to attack the commons. However, when he knew the tumult was

begun, he entered the city in haste, and running up to the leaders of the sedition, gave them a severe reprimand, and threatened to punish them in an exemplary manner. At the same time, he desired the people to be perfectly easy, and to fear no farther disturbance, while he was there. In all which he acted only like an artful dissembler, to hinder the heads of the Plebeian party from quitting the city, and to make sure of their being put to the sword there. Accordingly, there was not a man that trusted to his honour, who did not lose his life.

There is a saying too of Lyfander's, recorded by Androclides, which shews the little regard he had for oaths, "Children," he said, "were to be cheated with cockles, and men with oaths." In this he followed the example of Polycrates of Samos; though it ill became a general of an army to imitate a tyrant, and was unworthy of a Lacedaemonian to hold the gods in a more contemptible light than even his enemies. For he who over-reaches by a false oath, declares that he fears his enemy, but despises his god.

Cyrus, having sent for Lyfander to Sardis, presented him with great sums, and promised more. Nay, to shew how high he was in his favour, he went so far as to assure him, that if his father would give him nothing, he would supply him out of his own fortune; and if every thing else failed, he would melt down the very throne on which he sat when he administered justice, and which was all of massy gold and silver. And when he went to attend his father in Media, he assigned him the tribute of the towns, and put the care of his whole province in his hands. At parting he embraced, and intreated him not to engage the Athenians at sea before his return, because he intended to bring with him a great fleet out of Phoenicia and Cilicia.

After the departure of the prince, Lyfander did not chuse to fight the enemy who were not inferior to him in force, nor yet to lie idle with such a number

ber of ships, and therefore he cruised about and reduced some islands. Ægina and Salamis he pillaged; and from thence sailed to Attica, where he waited on Agis, who was come down from Decelea to the coast to shew his land-forces what a powerful navy there was, which gave them the command of the seas in a manner they could not have expected. Lyfander, however, seeing the Athenians in chase of him, steered another way back through the islands to Asia. As he found the Hellespont unguarded, he attacked Lampfacus by sea, while Thorax made an assault upon it by land; in consequence of which the city was taken, and the plunder given to the troops. In the mean time the Athenian fleet, which consisted of an hundred and twenty ships, had advanced to Eleus, a city in the Chersonesus. There getting intelligence that Lampfacus was lost, they sailed immediately to Sestos; where they took in provisions, and then proceeded to Ægos Potamos. They were now just opposite the enemy, who still lay at anchor near Lampfacus. The Athenians were under the command of several officers, among whom Philocles was one; the same who had persuaded the people to make a decree that the prisoners of war should have their right thumbs cut off, that they might be disabled from handling a pike, but still be serviceable at the oar.

For the present they all went to rest, in hopes of coming to an action next day. But Lyfander had another design. He commanded the seamen and pilots to go on board, as if he intended to fight at break of day. These were to wait in silence for orders, the land-forces were to form on the shore, and watch the signal. At sun-rise the Athenians drew up in a line directly before the Lacedaemonians, and gave the challenge. Lyfander, though he had manned his ships over night, and stood facing the enemy, did not accept of it. On the contrary, he sent orders by his pinnaces to those ships that were

in the van not to stir, but to keep the line without making the least motion. In the evening, when the Athenians retired, he would not suffer one man to land, till two or three galleys which he had sent to look out, returned with an account that the enemy were disembarked. Next morning they ranged themselves in the same manner, and the like was practised a day or two longer. This made the Athenians very confident; they considered the adversaries as a dastardly set of men, who durst not quit their station.

Mean while, Alcibiades, who lived in a castle of his own in the Chersonesus, rode to the Athenian camp, and represented to the generals two material errors they had committed. The first was, that they had stationed their ships near a dangerous and naked shore: the other, that they were so far from Sestos, from whence they were forced to fetch all their provisions. He told them, it was their business to sail to the port of Sestos without loss of time; where they would be at a greater distance from the enemy, who were watching their opportunity with an army commanded by one man, and so well disciplined, that they would execute his orders upon the least signal. These were the lessons he gave them, but they did not regard him. Nay, Tydeus said, with an air of contempt, "You are not general now, but we." Alcibiades even suspected some treachery, and therefore withdrew.

On the fifth day, when the Athenians had offered battle, they returned, as usual, in a careless and disdainful manner. Upon this, Lysander detached some galleys to observe them; and ordered the officers, as soon as they saw the Athenians landed, to sail back as fast as possible; and when they were come half way, to lift up a brazen shield at the head of each ship, as a signal for him to advance. He then sailed through all the line, and gave instructions to the captains and pilots to have all their men in
good

good order, as well mariners as soldiers; and, when the signal was given, to push forward with the utmost vigour against the enemy. As soon, therefore, as the signal appeared, the trumpet sounded in the admiral galley, the ships began to move on, and the land forces hastened along the shore to seize the promontory. The space between the two continents, in that place, is fifteen furlongs, which was soon overshot by the diligence and spirit of the rowers. Conon, the Athenian general, was the first that descried them from land, and hastened to get his men on board. Sensible of the impending danger, some he commanded, some he intreated, and others he forced into the ships. But all his endeavours were in vain. His men, not in the least expecting a surprise, were dispersed up and down, some in the market-place, some in the fields; some were asleep in their tents, and some preparing their dinner. All this was owing to the inexperience of their commanders, which had made them quite regardless of what might happen. The shouts and the noise of the enemy rushing on to the attack were now heard, when Conon fled with eight ships, and escaped to Evagoras king of Cyprus. The Peloponnesians fell upon the rest, took those that were empty, and disabled the others, as the Athenians were embarking. Their soldiers coming unarmed and in a straggling manner to defend the ships, perished in the attempt, and those who fled were slain by that part of the enemy which had landed. Lyfander took three thousand prisoners, and seized the whole fleet, except the sacred galley called *Paralus*, and those that escaped with Conon. When he had fastened the captive galleys to his own, and plundered the camp, he returned to *Lampsacus*, accompanied with flutes and songs of triumph. This great action cost him but little blood. In one hour he put an end to a long and tedious war*, which had been diversified beyond

* This war had lasted twenty-seven years.

all others by an incredible variety of events. This cruel war, which had occasioned so many battles, appeared in such different forms, produced such vicissitudes of fortune, and destroyed more generals, than all the wars of Greece put together, was terminated by the conduct and capacity of one man. Some, therefore, esteemed it the effect of a divine interposition. There were those who said, that the stars of Castor and Pollux appeared on each side the helm of Lysander's ship, when he first set out against the Athenians. Others thought that a stone which, according to the common opinion, fell from heaven, was an omen of this overthrow. It fell at Ægos Potamos, and was of a prodigious size. The people of the Chersonesus hold it in great veneration, and shew it to this day *. It is said that Anaxagoras had foretold, that one of those bodies which are fixed to the vault of heaven, would one day be loosened by some shock or convulsion of the whole machine, and fall to the earth. For he taught that the stars are not now in the places where they were originally formed; that being of a stony substance and heavy, the light they give is caused only by the reflection and refraction of the æther; and that they are carried along, and kept in their orbits, by the rapid motions of the heavens, which, from the beginning, when the cold ponderous bodies were separated from the rest, hindered them from falling.

But there is another and more probable opinion, which holds, that falling stars are not emanations or detached parts of the elementary fire, that go out the moment they are kindled; nor yet a quantity of air bursting out from some compression, and taking fire in the upper region; but that they are really heavenly bodies, which from some relaxation of the

* This victory was gained the fourth year of the ninety-third olympiad, four hundred and three years before the birth of Christ. And it is pretended that Anaxagoras had delivered his prediction sixty-two years before the battle.

PLIN. xi. 58.

rapidity

rapidity of their motion, or by some irregular concussion, are loosened and fall, not so much upon the habitable part of the globe, as into the ocean, which is the reason that their substance is seldom seen.

Damachus*, however, in his treatise concerning religion, confirms the opinion of Anaxagoras. He relates, that for seventy-five days together, before that stone fell, there was seen in the heavens a large body of fire, like an inflamed cloud, not fixed to one place, but carried this way and that with a broken and irregular motion; and that by its violent agitation several fiery fragments were forced from it, which were impelled in various directions, and darted with the celerity and brightness of so many falling stars. After this body was fallen in the Chersonesus, and the inhabitants, recovered from their terror, assembled to see it, they could find no inflammable matter, or the least sign of fire, but a real stone, which, though large, was nothing to the size of that fiery globe they had seen in the sky, but appeared only as a bit crumbled from it. It is plain, that Damachus must have very indulgent readers, if this account of his gains credit. If it is a true one, it absolutely refutes those who say, that this stone was nothing but a rock rent by a tempest from the top of a mountain, which, after being borne for some time in the air by a whirlwind, settled in the first place where the violence of that abated. Perhaps, at last, this phaenomenon, which continued so many days, was a real globe of fire; and when that globe came to disperse and draw towards extinction, it might cause such a change in the air, and produce such a violent whirlwind, as tore the stone from its native bed, and dashed it on the plain. But these

* Not Damachus. but Daimachus of Plataea, a very fabulous writer, and ignorant in the mathematics; in which as well as history he pretended to great knowledge. STRAB. lib. i.

are discussions that belong to writings of another nature.

When the three thousand Athenian prisoners were condemned by the council to die, Lyfander called Philocles, one of the generals, and asked him what punishment he thought he deserved, who had given his citizens such cruel advice with respect to the Greeks. Philocles, undismayed by his misfortunes, made answer, "Do not start a question where there is no judge to decide it; but now you are a conqueror, proceed as you would have been proceeded with had you been conquered." After this, he bathed, and dressed himself in a rich robe, and then led his countrymen to execution, being the first, according to Theophrastus, who offered his neck to the axe.

Lyfander next visited the maritime towns, and ordered all the Athenians he found, upon pain of death, to repair to Athens. His design was, that the crowds he drove into the city, might soon occasion a famine, and so prevent the trouble of a long siege, which must have been the case, if provisions had been plentiful. Wherever he came, he abolished the democratic, and other forms of government, and set up a Lacedaemonian governor, called *Harmostes*, assisted by ten archons, who were to be drawn from the societies he established. These changes he made as he sailed about at his leisure, not only in the enemy's cities, but in those of his allies, and by this means in a manner engrossed to himself the principality of all Greece. For in appointing governors he had no regard to family or opulence, but chose them from among his own friends, or out of the brotherhoods he had erected, and invested them with full power of life and death. He even assisted in person at executions, and drove out all that opposed his friends and favourites. Thus he gave the Greeks a very indifferent specimen of the Lacedaemonian government.

There-

Therefore, Theopompus, the comic writer*, was under a great mistake, when he compared the Lacedaemonians to vintners, who at first gave Greece a delightful draught of liberty, but afterwards dashed the wine with vinegar. The draught from the beginning was disagreeable and bitter; for Lyfander not only took the administration out of the hands of the people, but composed his oligarchies of the boldest and most factious of the citizens.

When he had dispatched this business, which did not take up any long time, he sent messengers to Lacedaemon, with an account that he was returning with two hundred ships. He went, however, to Attica, where he joined the kings Agis and Pausanias, in expectation of the immediate surrender of Athens. But finding that the Athenians made a vigorous defence, he crossed over again to Asia. There he made the same alteration in the government of cities, and set up his decemvirate after having sacrificed in each city a number of people, and forced others to quit their country. As for the Samians†, he expelled them all, and delivered their towns to the persons whom they had banished. And when he had taken Sestos out of the hands of the Athenians, he drove out the Sestians too, and divided both the city and territory among his pilots and boatswains. This was the first step of his which the Lacedaemonians disapproved: they annulled what he had done, and restored the Sestians to their country. But in other respects the Grecians were well satisfied with Lyfander's conduct. They saw with pleasure the Ægine-tae recovering their city, of which they had long been dispossessed, and the Melians and Scionaeans

* Muretus shews, from a passage in Theodorus Metochites, that we should read here *Theopompus the historian*, instead of *Theopompus the comic writer*.

† These things did not happen in the order they are here related. Samos was not taken till a considerable time after the long walls of Athens were demolished.

XENOPH. Hellen. II.

re-established by him, while the Athenians were driven out, and gave up their claims.

By this time, he was informed that Athens was greatly distressed with famine; upon which he sailed to the Piræus, and obliged the city to surrender at discretion. The Lacedæmonians say, that Lyfander wrote an account of it to the Ephori in these words: "Athens is taken;" to which they returned this answer; "If it is taken, that is sufficient." But this was only an invention to make the matter look more plausible. The real decree of the Ephori ran thus: "The Lacedæmonians have come to these resolutions. You shall pull down the Piræus and the long walls; quit all the cities you are possessed of, and keep within the bounds of Attica. On these conditions you shall have peace, provided you pay what is reasonable, and restore the exiles*. As for the number of ships you are to keep, you must comply with the orders we shall give you."

The Athenians submitted to this decree, upon the advice of Theramenes the son of Ancon†. On this occasion, we are told, Cleomenes, one of the young orators, thus addressed him; "Dare you go contrary to the sentiments of Themistocles, by delivering up those walls to the Lacedæmonians, which he built in defiance of them?" Theramenes answered, "Young man, I do not in the least counteract the intention of Themistocles: for he built the walls for the preservation of the citizens, and we for the same purpose demolish them. If walls only could make a city happy and secure, Sparta, which has none, would be the unhappiest in the world."

* The Lacedæmonians knew that if the Athenian exiles were restored, they would be friends and partizans of theirs; and if they were not restored, they should have a pretext for distressing the Athenians when they pleased.

† Or Agnon.

After Lyfander had taken from the Athenians all their ships, except twelve, and their fortifications were delivered up to him, he entered their city on the fixteenth of the month Munychion (April), the very day they had overthrown the Barbarians in the naval fight at Salamis. He presently fet himself to change their form of government; and finding that the people refented his propofal, he told them, "that
" they had violated the terms of their capitulation,
" for their walls were ftill ftanding, after the time
" fixed for the demolifhing of them was paff; and
" that fince they had broken the firft articles, they
" muft expect new ones from the council." Some fay, he really did propofe in the council of the allies, to reduce the Athenians to flavery; and that Eriantus, a Theban officer, gave it as his opinion, that the city fhould be levelled with the ground, and the fpot on which it ftood, turned to pafturnage.

Afterwards, however, when the general officers met at an entertainment, a mufician of Phocis happened to begin a *chorus* in the *Electra* of Euripides, the firft lines of which are thefe—

*Unhappy daughter of the great Atrides,
Thy straw-crown'd palace I approach.*

The whole company were greatly moved at this incident, and could not help reflecting, how barbarous a thing it would be to raze that noble city, which had produced fo many great and illuftrious men. Lyfander, however, finding the Athenians entirely in his power, collected the muficians in the city, and having joined to them the band belonging to the camp, pulled down the walls, and burned the fhips, to the found of their inftruments; while the confederates, crowned with flowers, danced, and hailed the day as the firft of their liberty.

Immediately after this, he changed the form of their government, appointing thirty archons in the city, and ten in the Piraeus, and placing a garrifon
in

in the citadel, the command of which he gave to a Spartan, named Callibius. This Callibius, on some occasion or other, lifted up his staff to strike Autolycus, a wrestler whom Xenophon has mentioned in his *Symposiasts*; upon which, Autolycus seized him by the legs, and threw him upon the ground. Lyfander, instead of resenting this, told Callibius, by way of reprimand, "he knew not they were freemen whom he had to govern." The thirty tyrants, however, in complaisance to Callibius, soon after put Autolycus to death.

Lyfander*, when he had settled these affairs, failed to Thrace†. As for the money that remained in his coffers, the crowns and other presents, which were many and very considerable, as may well be imagined, since his power was so extensive, and he was in a manner master of all Greece, he sent them to Lacedaemon by Gylippus, who had the chief command in Sicily. Gylippus, they tell us, opened the bags at the bottom, and took a considerable sum out of each, and then sewed them up again; but he was not aware that in every bag there was a note which gave account of the sum it contained. As soon as he arrived at Sparta, he hid the money he had taken out, under the tiles of his house, and then delivered the bags to the Ephori, with the seals entire. They opened them, and counted the money, but found that the sums differed from the bills. At this they were not a little embarrassed, till a servant of Gylippus told them, enigmatically, "a great number of

* Xenophon says, he went now against Samos.

† Plutarch should have mentioned in this place the conquest of the isle of Thasos, and in what a cruel manner Lyfander, contrary to his solemn promise, massacred such of the inhabitants as had been in the interest of Athens. This is related by Polyænus. But as Plutarch tells us afterwards that he behaved in this manner to the Milesians, perhaps the story is the same, and there may be a mistake only in the names.

"owls roosted in the Ceramicus*." Most of the coin then bore the impression of an owl, in respect to the Athenians.

Gylippus, having sullied his former great and glorious actions by so base and unworthy a deed, quitted Lacedaemon. On this occasion in particular, the wisest among the Spartans observed the influence of money, which could corrupt not only the meanest, but the most respectable citizens, and therefore were very warm in their reflections upon Lyfander for introducing it. They insisted, too, that the Ephori should send out all the silver and gold, as evils destructive in the proportion they were alluring.

In pursuance of this, a council was called, and a decree proposed by Sciraphidas, as Theopompus writes, or, according to Ephorus, by Phlogidas, "that no coin, whether of gold or silver, should be admitted into Sparta, but that they should use the money that had long obtained." This money was of iron, dipped in vinegar, while it was red hot, to make it brittle and unmalleable, so that it might not be applied to any other use. Besides, it was heavy, and difficult of carriage, and a great quantity of it was but of little value. Perhaps, all the ancient money was of this kind, and consisted either of pieces of iron or brass, which from their form were called *Obleisci*; whence we have still a quantity of small money called *Oboli*, six of which make a *Drachma* or *Handful*, that being as much as the hand can contain.

The motion for sending out the money was opposed by Lyfander's party, and they procured a decree, that it should be considered as the public treasure, and that it should be a capital crime to convert any of it to private uses: as if Lycurgus had been afraid of the money, and not of the avarice it pro-

* Ceramicus was the name of a place in Athens. It likewise signifies the tiling of a house.

duces: And avarice was not so much prevented by forbidding the use of money in the occasions of private persons, as it was encouraged by allowing it in the public; for that added dignity to its use, and excited strong desire for its acquisition. Indeed, it was not to be imagined, that while it was valued in public, it would be despised in private, or that what they found so advantageous to the state, should be looked upon of no concern to themselves. On the contrary, it is plain, that customs depending upon national institutions, much sooner affect the lives and manners of individuals, than the errors and vices of individuals corrupt a whole nation. For, when the whole is distempered, the parts must be affected too; but when the disorder subsists only in some particular parts, it may be corrected and remedied by those that have not yet received the infection. So that these magistrates, while they set guards, I mean law and fear of punishment, at the doors of the citizens, to hinder the entrance of money, did not keep their minds untainted with the love of it: they rather inspired that love, by exhibiting wealth as a great and admirable thing. But we have censured this conduct of theirs in another place.

Lyfander, out of the spoils he had taken, erected at Delphi his own statue, and those of his officers, in brass: he also dedicated, in gold, the stars of Castor and Pollux, which disappeared * before the battle of Leuctra. The galley † made of gold and ivory, which Cyrus sent in congratulation of his victory, and which was two cubits long, was placed in the treasury of Brasidas and the Acanthians. ‡ Alexan-

* They were stolen. Plutarch mentions it as an omen of the dreadful loss the Spartans were to suffer in that battle.

† So Aristobulus, the Jewish prince, presented Pompey with a golden vineyard or garden, valued at five hundred talents. That vineyard was consecrated in the temple of Jupiter Olympius, as this galley was at Delphi.

‡ This Alexandrides, or rather Anaxandrides, wrote an account of the offerings stolen from the temple at Delphi.

drides of Delphi writes, that Lyfander deposited there a talent of filver, fifty-two *Minae*, and eleven *Staters*: but this is not agreeable to the accounts of his poverty we have from all historians.

Though Lyfander had now attained to greater power than any Grecian before him, yet the pride and loftinefs of his heart exceeded it. For he was the first of the Grecians, according to Duris, to whom altars were erected by feveral cities, and facrifices offered, as to a god*. To Lyfander two hymns were first fung, one which began thus—

*To the fam'd leader of the Grecian bands,
From Sparta's ample plains! sing io paeon!*

Nay, the Samians decreed that the feasts which they had used to celebrate in honour of Juno, should be called the feasts of Lyfander. He always kept the Spartan poet Choerilus† in his retinue, that he might be ready to add lustre to his actions by the powers of verse. And when Antiochus had written some stanzas in his praise, he was so delighted, that he gave him his hat full of silver. Antimachus of Colophon, and Niceratus of Heraclea, composed each a panegyric that bore his name, and contested in form for the prize. He adjudged the crown to Niceratus,

* What incense the meanness of human nature can offer to one of their own species! nay, to one who, having no regard to honour or virtue, scarcely deserved the name of a man! The Samians worshipped him, as the Indians do the devil, that he might do them no more hurt; that after one dreadful sacrifice to his cruelty, he might seek no more.

† There were three poets of this name, but their works are all lost. The first, who was of Samos, sung the victory of the Athenians over Xerxes. He flourished about the seventy-fifth olympiad. The second was this Choerilus of Sparta, who flourished about seventy years after the first. The third was he who attended Alexander the Great, above seventy years after the time of Lyfander's Choerilus.

at which Antimachus* was so much offended, that he suppressed his poem. Plato, who was then very young, and a great admirer of Antimachus's poetry, addressed him while under this chagrin, and told him by way of consolation, "That the ignorant are sufferers by their ignorance, as the blind are by their want of sight." Aristonous, the lyrist, who had six times won the prize at the Pythian games, to pay his court to Lyfander, promised him, that if he was once more victorious, he would declare himself Lyfander's retainer, or even his slave.

Lyfander's ambition was a burthen only to the great, and to persons of equal rank with himself. But that arrogance and violence which grew into his temper along with his ambition, from the flatteries with which he was besieged, had a more extensive influence. He set no moderate bounds either to his favour or resentment. Governments unlimited and unexamined, were the rewards of any friendship or hospitality he had experienced; and the sole punishment that could appease his anger, was the death of his enemy: nor was there any way to escape.

There was an instance of this at Miletus. He was afraid that the leaders of the plebeian party there would secure themselves by flight; therefore, to draw them from their retreats, he took an oath not to do any of them the least injury. They trusted him, and made their appearance; but he immediately delivered them to the opposite party, and they were put to death, to the number of eight hundred. Infinite were the cruelties he exercised in every city, against those who were suspected of any inclination to popular government. For he not only consulted his own passions, and gratified his own revenge, but co-operated in this respect with the resentments and avarice of all his friends. Hence it was, that the

* According to others, he was of Claros. He was reckoned next to Homer in heroic poetry. But some thought him too pompous and verbose.

saying of Eteocles the Lacedaemonian was reckoned a good one, "That Greece could not bear two Lyfanders." Theophrastus, indeed, tells us, that Archistratus* had said the same thing of Alcibiades. But insolence, luxury, and vanity, were the most disagreeable part of his character; whereas Lyfander's power was attended with a cruelty and savageness of manners, that rendered it insupportable.

There were many complaints against him, to which the Lacedaemonians paid no regard. However, when Pharnabazus sent ambassadors to Sparta, to represent the injury he had received from the depredations committed in his province, the Ephori were incensed, and put Thorax, one of his friends and colleagues, to death, having found silver in his possession, contrary to the late law. They likewise ordered Lyfander home by their *Scytale*; the nature and use of which was this:—Whenever the magistrates sent out an admiral or a general, they prepared two round pieces of wood, with so much exactness, that they were perfectly equal both in length and thickness. One of these they kept themselves, the other was delivered to the officer then employed. These pieces of wood were called *Scytalae*. When they had any secret and important orders to convey to him, they took a long narrow scroll of parchment, and rolled it about their own staff, one fold close to another, and then wrote their business on it. This done, they took off the scroll, and sent it to the general. As soon as he received it, he applied it to his staff, which being just like that of the magistrates, all the folds fell in with one another, exactly as they did at the writing: and though before, the characters were so broken and disjointed, that nothing could be made of them, they now became plain and legible. The parchment, as well as the staff, is called *Scy-*

* It should be read Archeistratus.

tale, as the thing measured bears the name of the measure.

Lyfander, who was then in the Hellespont, was much alarmed at the *Scytale*. Pharnabazus being the person whose impeachment he most dreaded, he hastened to an interview with him, in hopes of being able to compose their differences. When they met, he desired him to send another account to the magistrates, signifying that he neither had nor made any complaint. He was not aware (as the proverb has it) that "he was playing the Cretan with a Cretan." Pharnabazus promised to comply with his request, and wrote a letter in his presence agreeable to his directions, but had contrived to have another by him, to a quite contrary effect. When the letter was to be sealed, he palmed that upon him which he had written privately, and which exactly resembled it. Lyfander, upon his arrival at Lacedaemon, went, according to custom, to the senate-house, and delivered Pharnabazus's letter to the magistrates; assuring himself that the heaviest charge was removed. For he knew that the Lacedaemonians paid a particular attention to Pharnabazus, because, of all the king's lieutenants, he had done them the greatest services in the war. When the Ephori had read the letter, they shewed it to Lyfander. He now found to his cost, that "others have art beside Ulysses," and in great confusion left the senate-house.

A few days after, he applied to the magistrates, and told them, he was obliged to go to the temple of Jupiter Ammon, and offer the sacrifices he had vowed before his battles. Some say, that when he was besieging the city of the Aphytaeans in Thrace, Ammon actually appeared to him in a dream, and ordered him to raise the siege: that he complied with that order, and badet he Aphytaeans sacrifice to Ammon; and for the same reason now hastened to pay his devotions to that deity in Libya. But it was generally believed, that he only used the deity as a pretext,

pretext, and that the true reason of his retiring was his fear of the Ephori, and his aversion to subjection. He chose rather to wander in foreign countries, than to be controuled at home. His haughty spirit was like that of an horse, which has long ranged the pastures at liberty, and returns with reluctance to the stall, and to his former burthen. As for the reason which Ephorus assigns for this voyage, I shall mention it by and by.

With much difficulty he got leave of the Ephori to depart, and took his voyage. While he was upon it, the kings considered that it was by means of the associations he had formed; that he held the cities in subjection, and was in effect master of all Greece. They resolved, therefore, to drive out his friends, and re-establish the popular governments. This occasioned new commotions. First of all, the Athenians, from the castle of Phyle*, attacked the thirty tyrants, and defeated them. Immediately upon this, Lyfander returned, and persuaded the Lacedaemonians to support the oligarchies, and to chastise the people; in consequence of which, they remitted an hundred talents to the tyrants, to enable them to carry on the war, and appointed Lyfander himself their general. But the envy with which the kings were actuated, and their fear that he would take Athens a second time, led them to determine, that one of them should attend the expedition. Accordingly Pausanias marched into Attica, in appearance to support the thirty tyrants against the people, but in reality to put an end to the war, lest Lyfander, by his interest in Athens, should become master of it again. This he easily effected. By reconciling the Athenians among themselves, and composing the tumults, he clipped the wings of Lyfander's ambition. Yet, as the Athenians revolted soon after, Pausanias was blamed for taking the curb of the oligarchy out

* A castle above Athens, strongly situated. Xenophon often mentions it in the second book of his Grecian History.

of the mouth of the people, and letting them grow bold and insolent again. On the contrary, it added to the reputation of Lyfander: he was now considered as a man, who took not his measures, either through favour or ostentation, but in all his operations, how severe soever, kept a strict and steady eye upon the interests of Sparta.

Lyfander, indeed, had a ferocity in his expressions as well as actions, which confounded his adversaries. When the Argives had a dispute with him about their boundaries, and thought their plea better than that of the Lacedaemonians, he shewed them his sword, and said, "He that is master of this, can best plead about boundaries."

When a citizen of Megara treated him with great freedom in a certain conversation, he said, "My friend, those words of thine should not come, but from strong walls and bulwarks."

When the Boeotians hesitated upon some propositions he made them, he asked them, "whether he should trail or push his pikes amongst them?"

The Corinthians having deserted the league, he advanced up to their walls, but the Lacedaemonians, he found, were very loth to begin the assault. A hare just then happening to start out of the trenches, he took occasion to say, "Are not you ashamed to dread those enemies, who are so idle, that the very hares sit in quiet under their walls?"

When king Agis paid the last tribute to nature, he left behind him a brother named Agefilaus, and a reputed son named Leotychidas. Lyfander, who had regarded Agefilaus with an extraordinary affection, persuaded him to lay claim to the crown, as a genuine descendant of Hercules: whereas Leotychidas was suspected to be the son of Alcibiades, and the fruit of a private commerce which he had with Timaca the wife of Agis, during his exile in Sparta. Agis, they tell us, from his computation of the time concluded that the child was not his, and therefore took

took no notice of Leotychidas, but rather openly disavowed him through the whole course of his life. However, when he fell sick, and was carried to Heraea*, he was prevailed upon by the entreaties of the youth himself, and of his friends, before he died, to declare before many witnesses that Leotychidas was his lawful son. At the same time, he desired all persons present to testify these his last words, to the Lacedaemonians, and then immediately expired.

Accordingly, they gave their testimony in favour of Leotychidas. As for Agefilaus, he was a man of uncommon merit, and supported besides by the interest of Lyfander, but his affairs were near being ruined by Diopithes, a famous interpreter of oracles, who applied this prophecy to his lameness—

*Beware, proud Sparta, lest a maimed empire †
Thy boasted strength impair; far other woes
Than thou behold'st, await thee—borne away
By the strong tide of war.—*

Many believed this interpretation, and were turning to Leotychidas. But Lyfander observed, that Diopithes had mistaken the sense of the oracle; for that the deity did not give himself any concern about their being governed by a lame king, but meant that their government would be lame, if spurious persons should wear the crown amongst the race of Hercules. Thus, partly by his address, and partly by his interest, he prevailed upon them to give the preference to Agefilaus, and he was declared king.

* Xenophon (l. ii.) tells us that Agis fell sick at Heraea a city of Arcadia, on his way from Delphi, and that he was carried to Sparta and died there.

† The oracle considered the two kings of Sparta, as its two legs, the supports of its freedom; which in fact they were, by being a check upon each other. The Lacedaemonians were, therefore, admonished to beware of a *lame government*, of having their republic converted into a monarchy; which indeed proved their ruin at last.

Vide JUSTIN. l. vi.

Lyfander immediately preſſed him to carry the war into Aſia, encouraging him with the hope of deſtroying the Perſian monarchy, and becoming himſelf the greateſt of mankind. He likewiſe ſent inſtructions to his friends in Aſia, to petition the Lacedaemonians, to give Ageſilaus the conduct of the war againſt the Barbarians. They complied with his order, and ſent ambaffadors to Lacedaemon for that purpoſe. Indeed, this command, which Lyfander procured Ageſilaus, ſeems to have been an honour equal to the crown itſelf. But ambitious ſpirits, though in other reſpects not unfit for affairs of ſtate, are hindered from many great actions, by the envy they bear their fellow candidates for fame. For thus they make thoſe their adverſaries, who would otherwiſe have been their aſſiſtants in the courſe of glory.

Ageſilaus took Lyfander with him, made him one of his thirty counſellors, and gave him the firſt rank in his friendſhip. But when they came into Aſia, Ageſilaus found, that the people, being unacquainted with him, ſeldom applied to him, and were very ſhort in their addreſſes; whereas Lyfander, whom they had long known, had them always at his gates or in his train, ſome attending out of friendſhip, and others out of fear. Juſt as it happens in tragedies, that a principal actor represents a meſſenger or a ſervant, and is admired in that character, while he who bears the diadem and ſceptre, is hardly liſtened to when he ſpeaks; ſo in this caſe the counſellor engroſſed all the honour, and the king had the title of commander, without the power.

Doubtleſs this unſeaſonable ambition of Lyfander deſerved correction, and he was to be made to know that the ſecond place only belonged to him. But entirely to caſt off a friend and benefactor, and, from a jealousy of honour, to expoſe him to ſcorn, was a ſtep unworthy the character of Ageſilaus. He began with taking buſineſs out of his hands, and making it a point not to employ him on any occaſion where

where he might distinguish himself. In the next place, those for whom Lyfander interested himself, were sure to miscarry, and to meet with less indulgence than others of the meanest station. Thus the king gradually undermined his power.

When Lyfander found that he failed in all his applications, and that his kindness was only an hindrance to his friends, he desired them to forbear their addresses to him, and to wait only upon the king, or the present dispensers of his favours. In consequence of this, they gave him no farther trouble about business, but still continued their attentions, and joined him in the public walks and other places of resort. This gave Agefilaus more pain than ever, and his envy and jealousy continually increased; insomuch that while he gave commands and governments to common soldiers, he appointed Lyfander his carver. Then, to insult the Ionians, he bade them "go and make their court to his carver."

Hereupon, Lyfander determined to come to an explanation with him, and their discourse was very laconic. "Truly, Agefilaus, you know very well how to tread upon your friends." "Yes," said he, "when they want to be greater than myself. It is but fit that those who are willing to advance my power, should share it." "Perhaps," said Lyfander, "this is rather what you say, than what I did. I beg of you, however, for the sake of strangers who have their eyes upon us, that you will put me in some post, where I may be least obnoxious, and most useful to you."

Agreeably to this request the lieutenancy of the Hellespont was granted him; and though he still retained his resentment against Agefilaus, he did not neglect his duty. He found Spithridates*, a Per-

* So Xenophon calls him; not Mithridates, the common reading in Plutarch. Indeed, some manuscripts have it Spithridates in the life of Agefilaus.

fian, remarkable for his valour, and with an army at his command, at variance with Pharnabazus, and persuaded him to revolt to Agesilaus. This was the only service he was employed upon; and when this commission was expired, he returned to Sparta in great disgrace, highly incensed against Agesilaus, and more displeased than ever with the whole frame of government. He resolved, therefore, now, without any farther loss of time, to bring about the change he had long meditated in the constitution.

When the Heraclidae mixed with the Dorians, and settled in Peloponnesus, there was a large and flourishing tribe of them at Sparta. The whole, however, were not entitled to the regal succession, but only two families, the Eurytionidae and the Agidae; while the rest had no share in the administration on account of their high birth. For as to the common rewards of virtue, they were open to all men, of distinguished merit. Lyfander who was of this lineage, no sooner saw himself exalted by his great actions, and supported with friends and power, but he became uneasy to think that a city, which owed its grandeur to him, should be ruled by others no better descended than himself. Hence he entertained a design to alter the settlement which confined the succession to two families only, and to lay it open to all the Heraclidae. Some say, his intention was to extend this high honour not only to all the Heraclidae, but to all the citizens of Sparta; that it might not so much belong to the posterity of Hercules, as to those who resembled Hercules in that virtue which numbered him with the gods. He hoped too, that when the crown was settled in this manner, no Spartan would have better pretensions than himself.

At first he prepared to draw the citizens into his scheme, and committed to memory an oration written by Cleon of Halicarnassus for that purpose. But he soon saw that so great and difficult a reformation required bolder and more extraordinary methods to bring

bring it to bear. And as in tragedy, machinery is made use of, where more natural means will not do, so he resolved to strike the people with oracles and prophecies; well knowing that the eloquence of Cleon would avail but little, unless he first subdued their minds with divine sanctions and the terrors of superstition. Ephorus tells us, he first attempted to corrupt the priestesses of Delphi, and afterwards those of Dodona, by means of one Pherecles; and having no success in either application, he went himself to the oracle of Ammon, and offered the priests large sums of gold. They too rejected his offers with indignation, and sent deputies to Sparta to accuse him of that crime. When these Libyans found he was acquitted they took their leave of the Spartans in this manner—"We will pass better judgments, when you come to live among us in Libya." It seems, there was an ancient prophecy, that the Lacedaemonians would some time or other settle in Africa. This whole scheme of Lyfander's was of no ordinary texture, nor took its rise from accidental circumstances, but was laid deep, and conducted with uncommon art and address: so that it may be compared to a mathematical demonstration, in which, from some principles first assumed, the conclusion is deducted through a variety of abstruse and intricate steps. We shall, therefore, explain it at large, taking Ephorus, who was both an historian and philosopher, for our guide.

There was a woman in Pontus, who gave out that she was pregnant by Apollo. Many rejected her assertion, and many believed it. So that when she was delivered of a son, several persons of the greatest eminence took particular care of his education, and for some reason or other gave him the name of Silenus. Lyfander took this miraculous birth for a foundation, and raised all his building upon it. He made choice of such assistants, as might bring the story into reputation, and put it beyond suspicion.

Then

Then he got another story propagated at Delphi and spread at Sparta, "That certain ancient oracles were kept in the private registers of the priests, which it was not lawful to touch or to look upon, till in some future age a person should arise, who could clearly prove himself the son of Apollo, and he was to interpret and publish those oracles." The way thus prepared, Silenus was to make his appearance, as the son of Apollo, and demand the oracles. The priests, who were in combination, were to enquire into every article, and examine him strictly as to his birth. At last they were to pretend a conviction of his divine parentage, and to shew him the books. Silenus then was to read in public all those prophecies, particularly that for which the whole design was set on foot; namely, "That it would be more for the honour and interest of Sparta to set aside the present race of kings, and chuse others out of the best and most worthy men in the commonwealth." But when Silenus was grown up, and came to undertake his part, Lyfander had the mortification to see his piece miscarry by the cowardice of one of the actors, whose heart failed him just as the thing was going to be put in execution. However nothing of this was discovered, while Lyfander lived.

He died before Agefilaus returned from Asia, after he had engaged his country, or rather involved all Greece, in the Boeotian war. It is indeed related variously, some laying the blame upon him, some upon the Thebans, and others upon both. Those who charge the Thebans with it, say, they overturned the altar, and prophaned the sacrifice * Agefilaus was offering

* Beside this affair of the sacrifice, the Lacedaemonians were offended at the Thebans, for their claiming the tenths of the treasure taken at Decelea; as well as for refusing to attend them in their expedition against the Piraeus, and dissuading the Corinthians from joining in that enterprize. Indeed, the Thebans began to be jealous

offering at Aulis; and that Androclides and Amphitheus, being corrupted with Persian money†, attacked the Phocians and laid waste their country, in order to draw upon the Lacedaemonians the Grecian war. On the other hand they who make Lyfander the author of the war, inform us, he was highly displeased, that the Thebans only, of all the confederates, should claim the tenth of the Athenian spoils taken at Decelea, and complain of his sending the money to Sparta. But what he most resented was, their putting the Athenians in a way of delivering themselves from the thirty tyrants, whom he had set up. The Lacedaemonians, to strengthen the hands of those tyrants, and make them more formidable, had decreed, "That if any Athenian fled out of the city, he should be apprehended, wherever he was found, and be obliged to return; and that whoever opposed the taking such fugitives, should be treated as enemies to Sparta." The Thebans on that occasion gave out orders, that deserve to be enrolled with the actions of Hercules and Bacchus. They caused proclamation to be made, "That every house and city should be open to such Athenians as desired protection; that whoever refused assistance to a fugitive that was seized, should be fined a

jealous of the growing power of the Lacedaemonians, and did not want to see the Athenians, whose weight had been considerable in the balance of power, entirely ruined.

XENOPH. Gr. Hist. l. iii.

† These were not the only persons who had taken the Persian money. Tithraustes, alarmed at the progress Agesilaus was making in Asia, sent Timocrates the Rhodian, with fifty talents to be distributed among the leading men in the states of Greece. Those of Corinth and Argos had their share as well as the Thebans. In consequence of this the Thebans persuaded the Locrians to pillage a tract of land that was in dispute between the Phocians and the Thebans. The Phocians made reprisals. The Thebans supported the Locrians. Whereupon the Phocians applied to the Spartans, and the war became general.

" talent;

“ talent; and that if any one should carry arms
“ through Boeotia against the Athenian tyrants, he
“ should not meet with the least molestation.” Nor
were their actions unsuitable to these decrees, so humane, and so worthy of Grecians. When Thrasybulus and his company seized the castle of Phyle, and laid the plan of their other operations, it was from Thebes they set out; and the Thebans not only supplied them with arms and money, but gave them a kind reception and every encouragement. These were the grounds of Lyfander’s resentment against them.

He was naturally prone to anger, and the melancholy that grew upon him with years, made him still more so. He therefore importuned the *Ephori* to send him against the Thebans. Accordingly he was employed, and marched out at the head of one army, and Pausanias was soon sent after him with another. Pausanias took a circuit by mount Cithaeron, to enter Boeotia, and Lyfander went through Phocis with a very considerable force to meet him. The city of Orchomenus was surrendered to him as he was upon his march, and he took Lebadia by storm, and plundered it. From thence he sent letters to Pausanias, to desire him to remove from Plataeae, and join him at Haliartus; for he intended to be there himself by break of day. But the messenger was taken by a Theban reconnoitering party, and the letters were carried to Thebes. Hereupon the Thebans entrusted their city with a body of Athenian auxiliaries, and marched out themselves about midnight for Haliartus. They reached the town a little before Lyfander, and entered it with part of their forces. Lyfander at first thought proper to encamp upon an eminence, and wait for Pausanias. But when the day began to decline, he grew impatient, and ordered the Lacedaemonians and confederates to arm. Then he led out his troops in a direct line along the high road

road up to the walls. The Thebans who remained without, taking the city on the left, fell upon his rear, at the fountain called Ciffusa*.

It is fabled, that the nurses of Bacchus, washed him in this fountain immediately after his birth. The water is, indeed, of a bright and shining colour like wine, and a most agreeable taste. Not far off grow the Cretan† canes of which javelins are made; by which the Haliartians would prove that Rhadamanthus dwelt there. Besides, they shew his tomb, which they call Alea. The monument of Alcmena too is near that place; and nothing, they say, can be more probable than that she was buried there, because she married Rhadamanthus after Amphitryon's death.

The other Thebans, who had entered the city, drew up with the Haliartians, and stood still for some time. But when they saw Lyfander with his vanguard approaching the walls, they rushed out at the gates, and killed him, with a diviner by his side, and some few more; for the greatest part retired as fast as possible to the main body. The Thebans pursued their advantage, and pressed upon them with so much ardour, that they were soon put to the rout, and fled to the hills. Their loss amounted to a thousand, and that of the Thebans to three hundred. The latter lost their lives by chasing the enemy into craggy and dangerous ascents. These three hundred had been accused of favouring the Lacedaemonians; and being determined to wipe off that stain, they pursued with a rashness which proved fatal to themselves.

* The name of this fountain should probably be corrected from Pausanias and Strabo, and be read *Tilphusa* or *Tilphosa*.

† Strabo tells us Haliartus was destroyed by the Romans in the war with Perseus. He also mentions a lake near it, which produced canes or reeds, not for shafts of javelins, but for pipes or flutes. Plutarch too mentions the latter use in the life of Sylla.

Pausanias received the news of this misfortune, as he was upon his march from Plataeae to Thespiae, and he continued his rout in good order to Haliartus. Thrasylbulus likewise brought up his Athenians thither from Thebes. Pausanias wanted a truce, that he might article for the dead: but the older Spartans could not think of it without indignation. They went to him and declared, "that they would never recover the body of Lyfander by truce, but by arms; that, if they conquered, they should bring it off, and bury it with honour; and if they were worsted, they should fall gloriously upon the same spot with their commander." Notwithstanding these representations of the veterans, Pausanias saw it would be very difficult to beat the Thebans now flushed with victory; and that even if he should have the advantage, he could hardly, without a truce, carry off the body which lay so near the walls. He therefore sent an herald, who settled the conditions, and then retired with his army. As soon as they were got out of the confines of Boeotia, they interred Lyfander in the territories of the Penopaeans, which was the first ground belonging to their friends and confederates. His monument still remains by the road from Delphi to Chaeronea. While the Lacedaemonians had their quarters there, it is reported that a certain Phocian, who was giving an account of the action to a friend of his that was not in it, said, "The enemy fell upon them, just after Lyfander had passed the Hoplites." While the man stood wondering at the account, a Spartan, a friend of Lyfander's, asked the Phocion what he meant by *Hoplites**, for he could make nothing of it. "I mean," said he, "the place where the enemy cut down our first ranks. The river that runs by the town is

* *Hoplites*, though the name of that river, signifies also a heavy-armed soldier.

" called

“ called Hoplites.” The Spartan, when he heard this, burst out into tears, and cried out, “ How inevitable is fate !” It seems, Lyfander had received an oracle, couched in these terms——

*Fly from Hoplites and the earth-born dragon
That stings thee in the rear——*

Some say the Hoplites does not run by Haliartus, but is a brook near Coronea, which mixes with the river Phliarus, and runs along to that city. It was formerly called Hoplias, but is now known by the name of Isomantus. The Haliatian who killed Lyfander, was named Neochorus, and he bore a dragon in his shield, which it was supposed the oracle referred to.

They tell us too, that the city of Thebes, during the Peloponnesian war, had an oracle from the Iſmenian Apollo, which foretold the battle of Delium*, and this at Haliartus, though the latter did not happen till thirty years after the other. The oracle runs thus——

*Beware the confines of the wolf; nor spread
Thy snares for foxes on th’ Orchalian hills.*

The country about Delium he calls the confines, because Boeotia there borders upon Attica; and by Orchalian hill is meant that in particular called *Alopecus* †, on that side of Helicon which looks towards Haliartus.

After the death of Lyfander, the Spartans so much resented the whole behaviour of Pausanias, with respect to that event, that they summoned him to be

* The battle of Delium, in which the Athenians were defeated by the Thebans, was fought the first year of the eighty-ninth Olympiad, four hundred and twenty-two years before Christ; and that of Haliartus full twenty-nine years after. But it is common for historians to make use of a round number, except in cases where great precision is required.

† That is, *fox-hill*.

tried for his life. He did not appear to answer that charge, but fled to Tegea, and took refuge in Minerva's temple, where he spent the rest of his days as her suppliant.

Lyfander's poverty, which was discovered after his death, added lustre to his virtue. It was then found, that notwithstanding the money which had passed through his hands, the authority he had exercised over so many cities, and indeed the great empire he had been possessed of, he had not in the least improved his family fortune. This account we have from Theopompus, whom we more easily believe when he commends, than when he finds fault; for he, as well as many others, was more inclined to censure than to praise.

Ephorus tells us, that afterwards, upon some disputes between the Confederates and the Spartans, it was thought necessary to inspect the writings of Lyfander, and for that purpose Agesilaus went to his house. Among the other papers, he found that political one, calculated to shew how proper it would be to take the right of succession from the Eurytionidae and Agidae, and to elect the kings from among persons of the greatest merit. He was going to produce it before the citizens, and to shew what the real principles of Lyfander were: but Lacratidas, a man of sense, and the principal of the *Ephori*, kept him from it, by representing, "how wrong it
" would be to dig Lyfander out of his grave, when
" this oration, which was written in so artful and
" persuasive a manner, ought rather to be buried
" with him."

Among the other honours paid to the memory of Lyfander, that which I am going to mention is none of the least. Some persons, who had contracted themselves to his daughters in his life-time, when they found he died poor, fell off from their engagements. The Spartans fined them for courting the
alliance

alliance while they had riches in view, and breaking off when they discovered that poverty, which was the best proof of Lyfander's probity and justice. It seems, at Sparta there was a law which punished, not only those who continued in a state of celibacy, or married too late, but those that married ill; and it was levelled chiefly at persons who married into rich, rather than good families. Such are the particulars of Lyfander's life which history has supplied us with.

S Y L L A.

LUCIUS Cornelius Sylla was of a Patrician family. One of his ancestors, named Rufinus*, is said to have been consul, but to have fallen under a disgrace more than equivalent to that honour. He was found to have in his possession more than ten pounds of plate, which the law did not allow, and for that was expelled the senate. Hence it was, that his posterity continued in a low and obscure condition; and Sylla himself was born to a very scanty fortune. Even after he was grown up, he lived in hired lodgings, for which he paid but a small consideration; and afterwards he was reproached with it, when risen to such opulence as he had no reason to expect. For one day as he was boasting of the great things he had done in Africa, a person of character made answer, "How canst thou be an honest man, who art master of such a

* Publius Cornelius Rufinus was twice consul; the first time in the year of Rome 463, and the second thirteen years after. He was expelled the senate two years after his second consulship, when Q. Fabricius Luscinus, and Caius Æmilius Papus were censors. Velleius Paterculus tells us, Sylla was the sixth in descent from this Rufinus; which might very well be; for between the first consulship of Rufinus and the first campaign of Sylla there was a space of a hundred and eighty-eight years.

"fortune,

“fortune, though thy father left thee nothing?” It seems, though the Romans at that time did not retain their ancient integrity and purity of manners, but were degenerated into luxury and expence, they yet considered it as no less disgraceful to have departed from family poverty, than to have spent a paternal estate. And a long time after, when Sylla had made himself absolute, and put numbers to death, a man who was only the second of his family that was free, being condemned to be thrown down the Tarpeian rock, for concealing a friend of his that was in the proscription, spoke of Sylla in this upbraiding manner—“I am his old acquaintance; “we lived long under the same roof; I hired the “upper apartment at two thousand sesterces, and he “that under me at three thousand.” So that the difference between their fortunes was then only a thousand sesterces, which in Attic money is two hundred and fifty drachmas. Such is the account we have of his origin.

As to his figure, we have the whole of it in his statues, except his eyes. They were of a lively blue, fierce and menacing; and the ferocity of his aspect was heightened by his complexion, which was a strong red interspersed with spots of white. From his complexion, they tell us, he had the name of Sylla*; and an Athenian droll drew the following jest from it—

“Sylla’s a mulberry strew’d o’er with meal.” Nor is it foreign to make these observations upon a man, who in his youth, before he emerged from obscurity, was such a lover of drollery, that he spent his time with mimics and jesters, and went with them every length of riot. Nay, when in the height of his power, he would collect the most noted players and

* Sil or Syl is a yellow kind of earth, which, when burnt, becomes red. Hence *Syllaceus Color*, in Vitruvius, signifies purple.

buffoons every day, and, in a manner unsuitable to his age and dignity, drink and join with them in licentious wit, while business of consequence lay neglected. Indeed, Sylla would never admit of any thing serious at his table; and though at other times a man of business, and rather grave and austere in his manner, he would change instantaneously, whenever he had company, and begin a carousal. So that to buffoons and dancers, he was the most affable man in the world, the most easy of access; and they moulded him just as they pleased.

To this dissipation may be imputed his libidinous attachments, his disorderly and infamous love of pleasure, which stuck by him even in age. One of his mistresses, named Nicopolis, was a courtesan, but very rich. She was so taken with his company, and the beauty of his person, that she entertained a real passion for him, and at her death appointed him her heir. His mother-in-law, who loved him as her own son, likewise left him her estate. With these additions to his fortune, he was tolerably provided for.

He was appointed quaestor to Marius in his first consulship, and went over with him into Africa to carry on the war with Jugurtha. In the military department he gained great honour, and, among other things, availed himself of an opportunity to make a friend of Bocchus king of Numidia. The ambassadors of that prince had just escaped out of the hands of robbers, and were in a very indifferent condition, when Sylla gave them the most humane reception, loaded them with presents, and sent them back with a strong guard.

Bocchus who for a long time had both hated and feared his son-in-law Jugurtha, had him then at his court. He had taken refuge there after his defeat; and Bocchus now meditating to betray him, chose rather to let Sylla seize him, than deliver him up himself.

himself. Sylla communicated the affair to Marius, and taking a small party with him, set out upon the expedition, dangerous as it was. What, indeed, could be more so, than in hopes of getting another man into his power, to trust himself with a Barbarian who was treacherous to his own relations? In fact, when Bocchus saw them at his disposal, and that he was under the necessity to betray either the one or the other, he debated long with himself which should be the victim. At last, he determined to abide by his first resolution, and gave up Jugurtha into the hands of Sylla.

This procured Marius a triumph; but envy ascribed all the glory of it to Sylla, which Marius in his heart not a little resented; especially, when he found that Sylla, who was naturally fond of fame, and from a low and obscure condition now came to general esteem, let his ambition carry him so far, as to give orders for a signet to be engraved with a representation of this adventure, which he constantly used in sealing his letters. The device was, Bocchus delivering up Jugurtha, and Sylla receiving him.

This touched Marius to the quick. However, as he thought Sylla not considerable enough to be the object of envy, he continued to employ him in his wars. Thus, in his second consulship, he made him one of his lieutenants, and in his third gave him the command of a thousand men. Sylla, in these several capacities, performed many important services. In that of lieutenant, he took Copillus, chief of the Tectosagae, prisoner; and in that of tribune, he persuaded the great and popular nation of the Marfi to declare themselves friends and allies of the Romans. But finding Marius uneasy at his success, and that, instead of giving him new occasions to distinguish himself, he rather opposed his advancement, he applied to Catulus the colleague of Marius.

Catulus was a worthy man, but wanted that vigour which is necessary for action. He therefore employed Sylla in the most difficult enterprizes; which opened him a fine field both of honour and power. He subdued most of the Barbarians that inhabited the Alps; and in a time of scarcity, undertook to procure a supply of provisions; which he performed so effectually, that there was not only abundance in the camp of Catulus, but the overplus served to relieve that of Marius.

Sylla himself writes, that Marius was greatly afflicted at this circumstance. From so small and childish a cause did that enmity spring, which afterwards grew up in blood, and was nourished by civil wars and the rage of faction; till it ended in tyranny and the confusion of the whole state. This shews how wise a man Euripides was, and how well he understood the distempers of government, when he called upon mankind to beware of * ambition as the most destructive of daemons to those that worship her.

Sylla by this time thought the glory he had acquired in war sufficient to procure him a share in the administration, and therefore immediately left the camp, to go and make his court to the people. The office he solicited was that of the *city praetorship*, but he failed in the attempt. The reason he assigns is this: the people, he says, knowing the friendship between him and Bocchus, expected, if he was aedile before his praetorship, that he would treat them with magnificent huntings and combats of African wild beasts, and on that account chose other praetors, that he might be forced upon the aedileship. But the subsequent events shewed the cause alledged by Sylla not to be the true one. For the year† following he got himself elected praetor, partly by his assiduities, and partly by his money.

* Phoenissae, v. 534

† The year of Rome 657.

While

While he bore that office he happened to be provoked at Caesar, and said to him angrily, "I will use *my* authority against you." Caesar* answered, laughing, "You do well to call it *your's*, for you bought it."

After his praetorship he was sent into Cappadocia. His pretence for that expedition was the re-establishment of Ariobarzanes; but his real design was to restrain the enterprising spirit of Mithridates, who was gaining himself dominions no less respectable than his paternal ones. He did not take many troops with him out of Italy, but availed himself of the service of the allies, whom he found well affected to the cause. With these he attacked the Cappadocians, and cut in pieces great numbers of them, and still more of the Armenians, who came to their succour: in consequence of which, Gordius was driven out, and Ariobarzanes restored to his kingdom.

During his encampment on the banks of the Euphrates, Orobazus came ambassador to him from Arsaces king of Parthia. There had as yet been no intercourse between the two nations; and it must be considered as a circumstance of Sylla's good fortune, that he was the first Roman to whom the Parthians applied for friendship and alliance. At the time of audience, he is said to have ordered three chairs, one for Ariobarzanes, one for Orobazus, and another in the middle for himself. Orobazus was afterwards put to death by the king of Parthia, for submitting so far to a Roman. As for Sylla, some commended his lofty behaviour to the Barbarians; while others blamed it, as insolent and out of season.

It is reported, that a certain Chalcidian†, in the train of Orobazus, looked at Sylla's face, and ob-

* This must have been Sextus Julius Caesar, who was consul four years after Sylla's praetorship. Caius Julius Caesar was only four years old when Sylla was praetor.

† Of Chalcis, the metropolis of Chalcidene in Syria; if Plutarch did not rather write Chaldaean.

served very attentively the turn of his ideas and the motions of his body. These he compared with the rules of his art, and then declared, "that he must
" infallibly be one day the greatest of men; and that
" it was strange he could bear to be any thing less
" at present."

At his return, Censorinus prepared to accuse him of extortion; for drawing, contrary to law, vast sums from a kingdom that was in alliance with Rome. He did not, however, bring it to a trial, but dropped the intended impeachment.

The quarrel between Sylla and Marius broke out afresh on the following occasion. Bocchus, to make his court to the people of Rome, and to Sylla at the same time, was so officious as to dedicate several images of victory in the Capitol, and close by them a figure of Jugurtha in gold, in the form he had delivered him up to Sylla. Marius, unable to digest the affront, prepared to pull them down, and Sylla's friends were determined to hinder it. Between them both the whole city was set in a flame, when the Confederate war which had long lain smothered, broke out, and for the present put a stop to the sedition.

In this great war, which was so various in its fortune, and brought so many mischiefs and dangers upon the Romans, it appeared from the small execution Marius did, that military skill requires a strong and vigorous constitution to second it. Sylla, on the other hand, performed so many memorable things, that the citizens looked upon him as a great general, his friends, as the greatest in the world, and his enemies as the most fortunate. Nor did he behave, with respect to that notion, like Timotheus the son of Conon. The enemies of that Athenian ascribed all his success to Fortune, and got a picture drawn, in which he was represented asleep, and Fortune by his side taking cities for him in her net. Upon this he gave way to an indecent passion, and complained

plained that he was robbed of the glory due to his achievements. Nay, afterwards, on his return from a certain expedition, he addressed the people in these terms—"My fellow-citizens, you must acknowledge that in this, Fortune has no share." It is said, the goddess piqued herself so far on being revenged on this vanity of Timotheus, that he could never do any thing extraordinary afterwards, but was baffled in all his undertakings, and became so obnoxious to the people, that they banished him.

Sylla took a different course. It not only gave him pleasure to hear his success imputed to Fortune, but he encouraged the opinion, thinking it added an air of greatness, and even divinity to his actions. Whether he did this out of vanity, or from a real persuasion of its truth, we cannot say. However, he writes in his Commentaries, "That his instantaneous resolutions, and enterprises executed in a manner different from what he had intended, always succeeded better than those on which he bestowed the most time and forethought." It is plain too from that saying of his, "That he was born rather for fortune than war," that he attributed more to fortune than to valour. In short, he makes himself entirely the creature of Fortune, since he ascribes to her divine influence the good understanding that always subsisted between him and Metellus, a man in the same sphere of life with himself, and his father-in-law. For, whereas he expected to find him a man troublesome in office, he proved on the contrary a quiet and obliging colleague. Add to this, that in the Commentaries inscribed to Lucullus, he advises him to depend upon nothing more than that which heaven directed him to in the visions of the night. He tells us farther, that when he was sent at the head of an army against the Confederates, the earth opened on a sudden near Laverna*; and that

* In the Salerian way there was a grove and temple consecrated to the goddess Laverna.

there

there issued out of the chasm, which was very large, a vast quantity of fire, and a flame that shot up to the heavens. The soothsayers being consulted upon it, made answer, "That a person of courage and superior beauty, should take the reins of government into his hands, and suppress the tumults with which Rome was then agitated." Sylla says, he was the man; for that his locks of gold were sufficient proof of his beauty, and that he needed not hesitate, after so many great actions, to avow himself a man of courage. Thus much concerning his confidence in the gods.

In other respects he was not so consistent with himself. Rapacious in a high degree, but still more liberal; in preferring or disgracing whom he pleased, equally unaccountable; submissive to those who might be of service to him, and severe to those who wanted services from him: so that it was hard to say whether he was more insolent, or more servile in his nature. Such was his inconsistency in punishing, that he would sometimes put men to the most cruel tortures, on the slightest grounds, and sometimes overlook the greatest crimes; he would easily take some persons into favour after the most unpardonable offences, while he took vengeance of others for small and trifling faults, by death and confiscation of goods. These things can be no other way reconciled, than by concluding that he was severe and vindictive in his temper, but occasionally checked those inclinations where his own interest was concerned.

In this very war with the Confederates, his soldiers, dispatched, with clubs and stones, a lieutenant of his, named Albinus, who had been honoured with the praetorship; yet he suffered them, after such a crime, to escape with impunity. He only took occasion from thence to boast, that he should find they would exert themselves more during the rest of the war, because they would endeavour to atone for that offence by extraordinary acts of valour. The censure
he

he incurred on this occasion did not affect him. His great object was the destruction of Marius, and finding that the Confederate war was drawing towards an end, he paid his court to the army, that he might be appointed general against Marius. Upon his return to Rome * he was elected consul with Quinctus Pompeius, being then fifty years old, and at the same time he entered into an advantageous marriage with Caecilia daughter of Metellus the high priest. This match occasioned a good deal of popular censure. Sarcastical songs were made upon it; and according to Livy's account, many of the principal citizens invidiously thought him unworthy of that alliance, though they had not thought him unworthy of the consulship. This lady was not his first wife, for in the early part of his life he married Ilia, by whom he had a daughter; afterwards he espoused Aelia, and after her Coelia, whom on account of her barrenness, he repudiated, without any other marks of disgrace, and dismissed with valuable presents. However, as he soon after married Metella, the dismissal of Coelia became the object of censure. Metella he always treated with the utmost respect; inasmuch that when the people of Rome were desirous that he should recall the exiles of Marius's party, and could not prevail with him, they intreated Metella to use her good offices for them. It was thought too that when he took Athens, that city had harder usage, because the inhabitants had jested vilely on Metella from the walls. But these things happened afterwards.

The consulship was now but of small consideration with him in comparison of what he had in view. His heart was fixed on obtaining the conduct of the Mithridatic war. In this respect he had a rival in Marius, who was possessed with an ill-timed ambition and madness for fame, passions which never grow old. Though now unwieldy in his person, and obli-

* In the year of Rome 665.

ged, on account of his age, to give up his share in the expeditions near home, he wanted the direction of foreign wars. This man, watching his opportunity in Rome, when Sylla was gone to the camp to settle some matters that remained unfinished, framed that fatal sedition, which hurt her more essentially than all the wars she had ever been engaged in. Heaven sent prodigies to prefigure it. Fire blazed out of its own accord from the ensign staves, and was with difficulty extinguished. Three ravens brought their young into the city, and devoured them there, and then carried the remains back to their nests. Some rats having gnawed the consecrated gold in a certain temple, the sacrificians caught one of them in a trap; where she brought forth five young ones, and eat three of them. And what was most considerable, one day when the sky was serene and clear, there was heard in it the sound of a trumpet, so loud, so shrill and mournful, that it frightened and astonished all the world. The Tuscan sages said it portended a new race of men, and a renovation of the world. For they observed, that there were eight several kinds of men, all different in life and manners: that heaven had allotted each its time, which was limited by the circuit of the great year; and that, when one came to a period, and another race was rising, it was announced by some wonderful sign either from earth or from heaven. So that it was evident at one view to those who attended to these things, and were versed in them, that a new sort of men was come into the world, with other manners and customs, and more or less the care of the gods than those who preceded them. They added, that in this revolution of ages many strange alterations happened: that divination, for instance, should be held in great honour in some one age, and prove successful in all its predictions, because the deity afforded pure and perfect signs to proceed by; whereas in another it should be in small repute, being
mostly

mostly extemporaneous, and calculating future events from uncertain and obscure principles. Such was the mythology of the most learned and respectable of the Tuscan soothsayers. While the senate were attending to their interpretations in the temple of Bellona, a sparrow, in sight of the whole body, brought in a grasshopper in her mouth, and after she had torn it in two, left one part among them and carried the other off. The diviners declared, they apprehended from this a dangerous sedition and dispute between the town and the country. For the inhabitants of the town are noisy like the grasshopper, and those of the country are domestic beings like the sparrow*.

Soon after this, Marius got Sulpitius to join him. This man was inferior to none in desperate attempts. Indeed, instead of enquiring for another more emphatically wicked, you must ask in what instance of wickedness he exceeded himself. He was a compound of cruelty, impudence, and avarice, and he could commit the most horrid and infamous of crimes in cold blood. He sold the freedom of Rome openly to persons that had been slaves, as well as to strangers, and had the money told out upon the table in the *Forum*. He had always about him a guard of three hundred men well armed, and a company of young men of the equestrian order, whom he called his anti-senate. Though he got a law made, that no senator should contract debts to the amount of more than two thousand drachmas, yet it appeared at his death that he owed more than three millions.

* The original is obscure and imperfect in this place; consequently corrupt. It stands thus—φανέντα γὰρ τῆτον, εἶναι καθάπερ τῆτιγαν· τῆς δὲ χωρίτας, ἀγοραῖς. Bryan says it should be restored from the manuscripts thus—καθάπερ σπυθον τῆς δὲ χωρίτας, ἀγοραῖς καθάπερ τῆτιγας. According to this, the sense will be the reverse of the text—*The inhabitants of the town are noisy like the sparrow, and those of the country frequent the field like the grasshopper.*

There is, indeed, an anonymous manuscript, which gives us that reading.

This

This wretch was let loose upon the people by Marius, and carried all before him by dint of sword. Among other bad edicts which he procured, one was that which gave the command in the Mithridatic war to Marius. Upon this, the consuls ordered all the courts to be shut up. But one day, as they were holding an assembly before the temple of Castor and Pollux, he set his ruffians upon them, and many were slain. The son of Pompey the consul, who was yet but a youth, was of the number. Pompey concealed himself, and saved his life. Sylla was pursued into the house of Marius, and forced from thence to the *Forum*, to revoke the order for the cessation of public business. For this reason, Sulpitius, when he deprived Pompey of the consulship, continued Sylla in it, and only transferred the conduct of the war with Mithridates to Marius. In consequence of this, he immediately sent some military tribunes to Nola, to receive the army at the hands of Sylla, and bring it to Marius. But Sylla got before them to the camp, and his soldiers were no sooner acquainted with the commission of those officers, than they stoned them to death.

Marius in return dipt his hands in the blood of Sylla's friends in Rome, and ordered their houses to be plundered. Nothing now was to be seen but hurry and confusion, some flying from the camp to the city, and some from the city to the camp. The senate were no longer free, but under the direction of Marius and Sulpitius. So that when they were informed that Sylla was marching towards Rome, they sent two praetors, Brutus and Servilius, to stop him. As they delivered their orders with some haughtiness to Sylla, the soldiers prepared to kill them; but at last contented themselves with breaking their fasces, tearing off their robes, and sending them away with every mark of disgrace.

The very sight of them, robbed as they were of the ensigns of their authority, spread sorrow and consternation

sternation in Rome, and announced a sedition, for which there was no longer either restraint or remedy. Marius prepared to repel force with force. Sylla moved from Nola at the head of six complete legions, and had his colleague along with him. His army, he saw, was ready at the first word to march to Rome, but he was unresolved in his own mind, and apprehensive of the danger. However, upon his offering sacrifice, the soothsayer Posthumius had no sooner inspected the entrails, than he stretched out both his hands to Sylla, and proposed to be kept in chains till after the battle, in order for the worst of punishments, if every thing did not soon succeed entirely to the general's wish. It is said too, that there appeared to Sylla in a dream, the goddess whose worship the Romans received from the Cappadocians, whether it be the Moon, Minerva, or Bellona. She seemed to stand by him, and put thunder in his hand, and having called his enemies by name one after another, bade him strike them: they fell, and were consumed by it to ashes. Encouraged by his vision, which he related next morning to his colleague, he took his way toward Rome.

When he had reached Picinae*, he was met by an embassy, that intreated him not to advance in that hostile manner, since the senate had come to a resolution to do him all the justice he could desire. He promised to grant all they asked; and, as if he intended to encamp there, ordered his officers, as usual, to mark out the ground. The ambassadors took their leave with entire confidence in his honour. But as soon as they were gone, he dispatched Basilus and Caius Mummius to make themselves masters of the

* There being no place between Nola and Rome called Picinae, Lubinus thinks we should read Pictae, which was a place of public entertainment about twenty-five miles from the capital. Strabo and Antoninus (in his Itinerary) mention it as such.

gate and the wall by the Aesquiline mount. He himself followed with the utmost expedition. Accordingly Bafillus and his party seized the gate, and entered the city. But the unarmed multitude got upon the tops of the houses, and with stones and tiles drove them back to the foot of the wall. At that moment Sylla arrived, and seeing the opposition his soldiers met with, called out to them to set fire to the houses. He took a flaming torch in his own hands, and advanced before them. At the same time he ordered his archers to shoot fire-arrows at the roofs. Reason had no longer any power over him; passion and fury governed all his motions; his enemies were all he thought of—and in the thirst for vengeance, he made no account of his friends, nor took the least compassions on his relations. Such was the case, when he made his way with fire, which makes no distinction between the innocent and guilty.

Meanwhile, Marius, who was driven back to the temple of Vesta, proclaimed liberty to the slaves that would repair to his standard. But the enemy pressed on with so much vigour, that he was forced to quit the city.

Sylla immediately assembled the senate, and got Marius, and a few others, condemned to death. The tribune Sulpitius, who was of the number, was betrayed by one of his own slaves, and brought to the block. Sylla gave the slave his freedom, and then had him thrown down the Tarpeian rock. As for Marius he set a price upon his head: in which he behaved neither with gratitude nor good policy, since he had not long before fled into the house of Marius, and put his life in his hands, and yet was dismissed in safety. Had Marius, instead of letting him go, given him up to Sulpitius, who thirsted for his blood, he might have been absolute master of Rome. But he spared his enemy; and a few days after, when there was opportunity for a return, met not with the same generous treatment.

The

The senate did not express the concern which this gave them. But the people openly, and by facts, shewed their resentment and resolution to make reprisals. For they rejected his nephew Nonius, who relied on his recommendation, and his fellow-candidate Survius, in an ignominious manner, and appointed others to the consulship, whose promotion they thought would be most disagreeable to him. Sylla pretended great satisfaction at the thing, and said "he was quite happy to see the people by his means enjoy the liberty of proceeding as they thought proper." Nay, to obviate their hatred, he proposed Lucius Cinna, who was of the opposite faction, for consul, but first laid him under the sanction of a solemn oath, to assist him in all his affairs. Cinna went up to the capitol with a stone in his hand. There he swore before all the world, to preserve the friendship between them inviolable, adding this imprecation, "If I be guilty of any breach of it, may I be driven from the city, as this stone is from my hand!" at the same time, he threw the stone upon the ground. Yet as soon as he was entered upon his office, he began to raise new commotions, and set up an impeachment against Sylla, of which Verginius, one of the tribunes, was to be the manager. But Sylla left both the manager and the impeachment behind him, and set forward against Mithridates.

About the time that Sylla set sail from Italy, Mithridates, we are told, was visited with many ill prefiges at Pergamus. Among the rest, an image of victory, bearing a crown, which was contrived to be let down by a machine, broke just as it was going to put the crown upon his head, and the crown itself was dashed to pieces upon the floor of the theatre. The people of Pergamus were seized with astonishment, and Mithridates felt no small concern, though his affairs then prospered beyond his hopes. For he had taken Asia from the Romans, and Bithynia and Cappadocia from their respective kings, and was set

down in quiet at Pergamus, disposing of rich governments, and kingdoms among his friends at pleasure. As for his sons, the eldest governed in peace the ancient kingdoms of Pontus and Bosphorus, extending as far as the deserts above the Maeotic lake: the other, named Ariarathes, was subduing Thrace and Macedonia with a great army. His generals with their armies were reducing other considerable places. The principal of these was Archelaus, who commanded the seas with his fleet, and was conquering the Cyclades, and all the other islands within the bay of Malea, and was master of Euboea itself. He met, indeed, with some check at Chaeronea. There Brutius Sura, lieutenant to Sentius who commanded in Macedonia, a man distinguished by his courage and capacity, opposed Archelaus, who was overflowing Boeotia like a torrent, defeated him in three engagements near Chaeronea, and confined him again to the sea. But, as Lucius Lucullus came and ordered him to give place to Sylla, to whom that province, and the conduct of the war there, were decreed, he immediately quitted Boeotia, and returned to Sentius, though his success was beyond all that he could have flattered himself with, and Greece was ready to declare again for the Romans, on account of his valour and conduct. It is true, these were the most shining actions of Brutius's life.

When Sylla was arrived, the cities sent ambassadors with an offer of opening their gates to him. Athens alone was held by its tyrant Aristion for Mithridates. He therefore attacked it with the utmost vigour, invested the Piraeus, brought up all sorts of engines, and left no kind of assault whatever unattempted. Had he waited a while, he might without the least danger have taken the upper town, which was already reduced by famine to the last extremity. But his haste to return to Rome, where he apprehended some change in affairs to his prejudice, made him run every risque, and spare neither men nor money, to bring

bring this war to a conclusion. For, besides his other warlike equipage, he had ten thousand yoke of mules, which worked every day at the engines. As wood began to fail, by reason of the immense weights which broke down his machines, or their being burnt by the enemy, he cut down the sacred groves. The shady walks of the Academy and the Lycaean in the suburbs fell before his axe. And as the war required vast sums of money to support it, he scrupled not to violate the holy treasures of Greece, but took from Epidaurus, as well as Olympia, the most beautiful and precious of their gifts. He wrote also to the Amphictyones at Delphi, "that it would be best for them to put the treasures of Apollo in his hands: for either he would keep them safer than they could; or, if he applied them to his own use, would return the full value." Caphis the Phocian, one of his friends, was sent upon this commission, and ordered to have every thing weighed to him.

Caphis went to Delphi, but was loth to touch the sacred deposits, and lamented to the Amphictyones the necessity he was under, with many tears. Some said, they heard the sound of the lyre in the inmost sanctuary; and Caphis, either believing it, or willing to strike Sylla with a religious terror, sent him an account of it. But he wrote back in a jesting way, "that he was surpris'd Caphis should not know that music was the voice of joy, and not of resentment. He might, therefore, boldly take the treasures, since Apollo gave him them with the utmost satisfaction."

These treasures were carried off, without being seen by many of the Greeks. But, of the royal offerings, there remained a silver tun, which being so large and heavy, that no carriage could bear it, the Amphictyones were obliged to cut it in pieces. At sight of this, they called to mind, one while Flaminius and Manius Acilius, and another while Pau-

lus Æmilius; one of which having driven Antiochus out of Greece, and the others subdued the kings of Macedonia, not only kept their hands from spoiling the Grecian temples, but expressed their regard and reverence for them by adding new gifts. Those great men, indeed, were legally commissioned, and their soldiers were persons of sober minds, who had learnt to obey their generals without murmuring. The generals, with the magnanimity of kings, exceeded not private persons in their expences, nor brought upon the state any charge but what was common and reasonable. In short, they thought it no less disgrace to flatter their own men, than to be afraid of the enemy. But the commanders of these times raised themselves to high posts by force, not by merit; and, as they wanted soldiers to fight their countrymen, rather than any foreign enemies, they were obliged to treat them with great complaisance. While they thus bought their service, at the price of ministering to their vices, they were not aware that they were selling their country; and making themselves slaves to the meanest of mankind, in order to command the greatest and the best. This banished Marius from Rome, and afterwards brought him back against Sylla. This made Cinna dip his hands in the blood of Octavius, and Fimbria the assassin of Flaccus.

Sylla opened one of the first sources of this corruption. For, to draw the troops of other officers from them, he lavishly supplied the wants of his own. Thus, while by one and the same means he was inviting the former to desertion, and the latter to luxury, he had occasion for infinite sums, and particularly in this siege. For his passion for taking Athens was irresistibly violent: whether it was that he wanted to fight against that city's ancient renown, of which nothing but the shadow now remained; or whether he could not bear the scoffs and taunts, with
which

which Aristion, in all the wantonness of ribaldry, insulted him and Metella from the walls.

The composition of this tyrant's heart was insolence and cruelty. He was the sink of all the follies and vices of Mithridates. Poor Athens, which had survived of innumerable wars, tyrannies and seditions, perished at last by this monster, as by a deadly disease. A bushel * of wheat was now sold there for a thousand drachmas. The people did eat not only the herbs and roots that grew about the citadel, but sodden leather and oil-bags; while he was indulging himself in riotous feasts and dancings in the day-time, or mimicking and laughing at the enemy. He let the sacred lamp of the goddesses go out for want of oil; and when the principal priests sent to ask him for half a measure of barley, he sent her that quantity of pepper. The senators and priests came to intreat him to take compassion on the city, and capitulate with Sylla, but he received them with a shower of arrows. At last, when it was too late, he agreed with much difficulty to send two or three of the companions of his riots to treat of peace. These, instead of making any proposals that tended to save the city, talked in a lofty manner about Theseus, and Eumolpus, and the conquest of the Medes; which provoked Sylla to say, "Go, my noble souls, and take back your fine speeches with you. For my part, I was not sent to Athens to learn its antiquities, but to chastise its rebellious people."

In the mean time, Sylla's spies heard some old men, who were conversing together in the Ceramicus, blame the tyrant for not securing the wall near the Heptachalcos, which was the only place not impregnable. They carried this news to Sylla; and he, far from disregarding it, went by night to take a view of that part of the wall, and found that it might be scaled. He then set immediately about it; and he

* Medimnus. See the table.

tells us in his Commentaries, that Marcus Teius * was the first man who mounted the wall. Teius there met with an adversary, and gave him such a violent blow on the skull, that he broke his sword ; notwithstanding which he stood firm and kept his place.

Athens†, therefore, was taken, as the old men had foretold. Sylla, having levelled with the ground all that was between the Piræan gate and that called the Sacred, entered the town at midnight, in a manner the most dreadful that can be conceived. All the trumpets and horns sounded, and were answered by the shouts and clang of the soldiers, let loose to plunder and destroy. They rushed along the streets with drawn swords, and horrible was the slaughter they made. The number of the killed could not be computed ; but we may form some judgment of it, by the quantity of ground which was overflowed with blood. For, beside those that fell in other parts of the city, the blood that was shed in the market-place only, covered all the Ceramicus as far as Dipylus. Nay, there are several who assure us, it ran through the gates, and overspread the suburbs.

But though such numbers were put to the sword, there were as many who laid violent hands upon themselves, in grief for their sinking country. What reduced the best men among them to this despair of finding any mercy or moderate terms for Athens, was the well-known cruelty of Sylla. Yet partly by the intercession of Midias and Calliphon, and the exiles who threw themselves at his feet, partly by the intreaties of the senators who attended him in that expedition, and being himself fatiated with blood besides, he was at last prevailed upon to stop his hand ; and, in compliment to the ancient Athenians, he said, “ He forgave the many for the sake of the few, the living for the dead.”

* Probably it should be Ateius. In the life of Crassus one Ateius is mentioned as a tribune of the people.

† Athens was taken 84 years before the birth of Christ.

He tells us, in his Commentaries, that he took Athens on the calends of March, which falls in with the new moon in the month Anthesterion; when the Athenians were performing many rites in memory of the destruction of the country by water; for the deluge was believed to have happened about that time of the year*.

The city thus taken, the tyrant retired into the citadel, and was besieged there by Curio, to whom Sylla gave that charge. He held out a considerable time, but at last was forced to surrender for want of water. In this the hand of heaven was very visible. For the very same day and hour that Aristion was brought out, the sky, which before was perfectly serene, grew black with clouds, and such a quantity of rain fell as quite overflowed the citadel. Soon after this, Sylla made himself master of the Piraeus; the most of which he laid in ashes, and among the rest, that admirable work, the Arsenal built by Philo.

During these transactions, Taxiles, Mithridates's general, came down from Thrace and Macedonia, with a hundred thousand foot, ten thousand horse, and fourscore and ten chariots armed with scythes, and sent to desire Archelaus to meet him. Archelaus had then his station at Munychia, and neither chose to quit the sea, nor yet to fight the Romans, but was persuaded his point was to protract the war, and to cut off the enemy's convoys. Sylla saw better than he, the distress he might be in for provisions, and therefore moved from that barren country, which was scarcely sufficient to maintain his troops in time of peace, and led them into Boeotia. Most people thought this an error in his counsels, to quit the rocks of Attica where horse could hardly act, and to expose himself on the large and open plains of Boeotia, when he knew the chief strength of the bar-

* The deluge of Ogyges happened in Attica near seventeen hundred years before.

barbarians consisted in cavalry and chariots. But to avoid hunger and famine, he was forced, as we have observed, to hazard a battle. Besides, he was in pain for Hortensius, a man of a great and enterprising spirit, who was bringing him a considerable reinforcement from Thessaly, and was watched by the barbarians in the Straits. These were the reasons which induced Sylla to march into Boeotia. As for Hortensius, Caphis, a countryman of ours, led him another way, and disappointed the barbarians. He conducted him by Mount Parnassus to Tithora, which is now a large city, but was then only a fort situated on the brow of a steep precipice, where the Phocians of old took refuge, when Xerxes invaded their country. Hortensius, having pitched his tents there, in the day-time kept off the enemy; and in the night made his way down the broken rocks to Patronis, where Sylla met him with all his forces.

Thus united, they took possession of a fertile hill, in the middle of the plains of Elateia, well sheltered with trees and watered at the bottom. It is called Philoboeotus, and is much commended by Sylla for the fruitfulness of its soil, and its agreeable situation. When they were encamped, they appeared to the enemy no more than a handful. They had not, indeed above fifteen hundred horse, and not quite fifteen thousand foot. The other generals in a manner forced Archelaus upon action; and when they came to put their forces in order of battle, they filled the whole plain with horses, chariots, bucklers, and targets. The clamour and hideous roar of so many nations ranked thick together, seemed to rend the sky; and the pomp and splendor of their appearance was not without its use in exciting terror. For the lustre of their arms, which were richly adorned with gold and silver, and the colours of their Median and Scythian vests intermixed with brass and polished steel, when the troops were in motion, kindled

led the air with an awful flame like that of lightning.

The Romans, in great consternation, shut themselves up within their trenches. Sylla could not, with all his arguments, remove their fears; and, as he did not chuse to force them into the field, in this dispirited condition, he sat still, and bore, though with great reluctance, the vain boasts and insults of the barbarians. This was of more service to him than any other measure he could have adopted. The enemy, who held him in great contempt, and were not before very obedient to their own generals, by reason of their number, now forgot all discipline; and but few of them remained within their entrenchments. Invited by rapine and plunder, the greatest part had dispersed themselves, and were got several days journey from the camp. In these excursions, it is said, they ruined the city of Panopea, sacked Lebadia, and pillaged a temple where oracles were delivered, without orders from any one of their generals.

Sylla, full of sorrow and indignation to have these cities destroyed before his eyes, was willing to try what effect labour would have upon his soldiers. He compelled them to dig trenches, to draw the Cephissus from its channel, and make them work at it without intermission; standing inspector himself, and severely punishing all whom he found remiss. His view in this was to tire them with labour, that they might give the preference to danger; and it answered the end he proposed. On the third day of their drudgery, as Sylla passed by, they called out to him to lead them against the enemy. Sylla said, "It is not any inclination to fight, but an unwillingness to work, that puts you upon this request. If you really want to come to an engagement, go, sword-in-hand, and seize that post immediately." At the same time he pointed to the place, where had formerly stood the citadel of the Paropotamians; but all the buildings were now demolished, and there was nothing

thing left but a craggy and steep mountain, just separated from mount Edylium by the river Affus, which at the foot of the mountain falls into the Cephissus. The river growing very rapid by this confluence, makes the ridge a safe place for an encampment. Sylla seeing those of the enemy's troops called Chalcaspidæ, hastening to seize that post, wanted to gain it before them, and, by availing himself of the present spirit of his men, he succeeded. Archelaus upon this disappointment turned his arms against Chaeronea; the inhabitants, in consequence of their former connections with Sylla, intreated him not to desert the place; upon which he sent along with them the military tribune Gabinus, with one legion. The Chaeroneans, with all their ardour to reach their city, did not arrive sooner than Gabinus: such was his honour when engaged in their defence, that it even eclipsed the zeal of those who implored his assistance. Juba tells us that it was not Gabinus, but Ericius*, who was dispatched on this occasion. In this critical situation, however, was the city of Chaeronea.

The Romans now received from Lebadia, and the cave of Trophonius very agreeable accounts of oracles that promised victory. The inhabitants of that country tell us many stories about them; but what Sylla himself writes in the tenth book of his Commentaries, is this: Quintus Titus, a man of some note among the Romans employed in Greece, came to him one day after he had gained the battle of Chaeronea, and told him, that Trophonius foretold another battle to be fought shortly in the same place, in which he should likewise prove victorious. After him, came a private soldier of his own, with a promise from heaven of the glorious success that would

* It is probable, it should be read Hirtius; for so some manuscripts have it, where the same person is mentioned again afterwards.

attend his affairs in Italy. Both agreed as to the manner in which these prophecies were communicated: they said the deity that appeared to them, both in beauty and majesty, resembled the Olympian Jupiter.

When Sylla had passed the *Affus*, he encamped under Mount *Edylium*, over against *Archelaus*, who had strongly entrenched himself between *Acontium* and *Edylium*, near a place called *Affia*. That spot of ground bears the name of *Archelaus* to this day. Sylla passed one day without attempting any thing. The day following he left *Muraena* with a legion and two cohorts, to harass the enemy who were already in some disorder, while he himself went and sacrificed on the banks of the *Cephifus*. After the ceremony was over, he proceeded to *Chaeronea*, to join the forces there, and to take a view of *Thurium*, a post which the enemy had gained before him. This is a craggy eminence, running up gradually to a point, which we express in our language by the term *Orthopagos*. At the foot of it runs the river *Morius**, and by it stands the temple of *Apollo Thurius*. *Apollo* is so called from *Thuro* the mother of *Chaeron*, who, as history informs us, was the founder of *Chaeronea*. Others say, that the heifer which the *Pythian Apollo* appointed *Cadmus* for his guide, first presented herself there, and that the place was thence named *Thurium*; for the *Phaenicians* call a heifer *Tbor*.

As Sylla approached *Chaeronea*, the tribune who had the city in charge, led out his troops to meet him, having himself a crown of laurel in his hands. Just as Sylla received them, and began to animate them to the intended enterprize, *Homoloichus* and *Anaxidamus*, two *Chaeroneans*, addressed him, with a promise to cut off the corps that occupied *Thurium*,

* This river is afterwards called *Molus*; but which is the right reading is uncertain.

if he would give them a small party to support them in the attempt. For there was a path which the barbarians were not apprised of, leading from a place called Petrochus, by the temple of the Muses, to a part of the mountain that overlooked them; from whence it was easy either to destroy them with stones, or drive them down into the plain. Sylla, finding the character of these men for courage and fidelity supported by Gabinus, ordered them to put the thing in execution. Mean time he drew up his forces, and placed the cavalry in the wings; taking the right himself, and giving the left to Muraena. Gallus* and Hortensius, his lieutenants, commanded a body of reserve in the rear, and kept watch upon the heights, to prevent their being surrounded. For it was easy to see that the enemy were preparing, with their wings which consisted of an infinite number of horse, and all their light-armed foot, troops that could move with great agility, and wind away at pleasure, to take a circuit, and quite inclose the Roman army.

In the mean time, the two Chaeroneans, supported, according to Sylla's order, by a party commanded by Ericius, stole unobserved up Thurium, and gained the summit. As soon as they made their appearance, the barbarians were struck with consternation, and sought refuge in flight; but in the confusion many of them perished by means of each other. For, unable to find any firm footing, as they moved down the steep mountain, they fell upon the spears of those that were next before them, or else pushed them down the precipice. All the while the enemy were pressing upon them from above, and galling them behind; insomuch, that three thousand men were killed upon Thurium. As to those who got down,

* Guarin. after Appian's *Mithrid.* reads *Galba*. And so it is in several manuscripts. Dacier proposes to read *Balbus*; which name occurs afterwards.

some fell into the hands of Muraena, who met them in good order and easily cut them in pieces; others who fled to the main body under Archelaus, wherever they fell in with it, filled it with terror and dismay; and this was the thing that gave the officers most trouble, and principally occasioned the defeat. Sylla taking advantage of their disorder, moved with such vigour and expedition to the charge, that he prevented the effect of the armed chariots. For the chief strength of those chariots consists in the course they run, and in the impetuosity consequent upon it; and if they have but a short compass, they are as insignificant as arrows sent from a bow not well drawn. This was the case at present with respect to the barbarians. Their chariots moved at first so slow, and their attacks were so lifeless, that the Romans clapped their hands, and received them with the utmost ridicule. They even called for fresh ones, as they used to do in the Hippodrome at Rome.

Upon this, the infantry engaged. The barbarians, for their part, tried what their long pikes would do; and, by locking their shields together, endeavoured to keep themselves in good order. As for the Romans, after their spears had all the effect that could be expected from them, they drew their swords, and met the scymitars of the enemy with the strength which a just indignation inspires. For Mithridates's generals had brought over fifteen thousand slaves upon a proclamation of liberty, and placed them among the heavy-armed infantry. On which occasion a certain centurion is said thus to have expressed himself—"Surely these are the *Saturnalia*; for we never saw slaves have any share of liberty at another time." However, as their ranks were so close, and their file so deep, that they could not easily be broken; and as they exerted a spirit which could not be expected from them, they were not repulsed and put into disorder till the archers and slingers
of

of the second line discharged all their fury upon them.

Archelaus was now extending his right wing, in order to surround the Romans; and Hortensius, with the cohorts under his command, pushed down to take him in flank. But Archelaus, by a sudden manoeuvre turned against him with two thousand horse whom he had at hand, and, by little and little, drove him towards the mountains; so that being separated from the main body, he was in danger of being quite hemmed in by the enemy. Sylla, informed of this, pushed up with his right wing which had not yet engaged, to the assistance of Hortensius. On the other hand, Archelaus, conjecturing, from the dust that flew about, the real state of the case, left Hortensius, and hastened back to the right of the Roman army, from whence Sylla had advanced, in hopes of finding it without a commander.

At the same time Taxiles led on the *Chalcaspides* against Muraena, so that shouts were set up on both sides, which were re-echoed by the neighbouring mountains. Sylla now stopped to consider which way he should direct his course. At length concluding to return to his own post, he sent Hortensius with four cohorts to the assistance of Muraena; and himself with the fifth made up to his right wing with the utmost expedition. He found that without him it kept a good countenance against the troops of Archelaus; but as soon as he appeared, his men made such prodigious efforts, that they routed the enemy entirely, and pursued them to the river and Mount Acontium.

Amidst this success, Sylla was not unmindful of Muraena's danger, but hastened with a reinforcement to that quarter. He found him, however, victorious, and therefore had nothing to do but to join in the pursuit. Great numbers of the barbarians fell in the field of battle, and still greater as they were endeavouring to gain their entrenchments: so that out
of

of so many myriads only ten thousand men reached Chalcis. Sylla says, he missed only fourteen of his men, and two of those came up in the evening. For this reason he inscribed his trophies *to Mars, to Victory, and Venus*, to shew that he was no less indebted to good fortune, than to capacity and valour, for the advantages he had gained. The trophy I am speaking of, was erected for the victory won on the plain, where the troops of Archelaus began to give way, and to fly to the river Molus. The other trophy upon the top of Thurium, in memory of their getting above the barbarians, was inscribed in Greek characters, *to the valour of Homoloichus and Anaxidamas*.

He exhibited games on this occasion at Thebes, in a theatre erected for that purpose near the fountain of Oedipus*. But the judges were taken from other cities of Greece, by reason of the implacable hatred he bore the Thebans. He deprived them of half their territories, which he consecrated to the Pythian Apollo and the Olympian Jupiter; leaving orders that out of their revenues the money should be repaid which he had taken from their temples.

After this, he received news that Flaccus, who was of the opposite faction, was elected consul, and that he was bringing a great army over the Ionian, in pretence against Mithridates, but in reality against him. He therefore marched into Thessaly to meet him. However, when he was arrived at Melitea, intelligence was brought him from several quarters, that the countries behind him were laid waste by another army of the king's, superior to the former. Dorylaus was arrived at Chalcis with a large fleet, which brought over eighty thousand men, of the

* Pausanias tells us this fountain was so called, because Oedipus there washed off the blood he was stained with in the murder of his father.

best-equipped and best-disciplined troops of Mithridates. With these he entered Boeotia, and made himself master of the country, in hopes of drawing Sylla to a battle. Archelaus remonstrated against that measure, but Dorylaus was so far from regarding him, that he scrupled not to assert, that so many myriads of men could not have been lost without treachery. But Sylla soon turned back, and shewed Dorylaus how prudent the advice was which he had rejected, and what a proper sense its author had of the Roman valour. Indeed, Dorylaus himself, after some slight skirmishes with Sylla at Tilphosium, was the first to agree that action was not the thing to be pursued any longer, but that the war was to be spun out, and decided at last by dint of money.

However, the plain of Orchomenus, where they were encamped, being most advantageous for those whose chief strength consisted in cavalry, gave fresh spirits to Archelaus. For, of all the plains of Boeotia, the largest and most beautiful is this, which, without either tree or bush, extends itself from the gates of Orchomenus to the fens in which the river Melas loses itself. That river rises under the walls of the city just mentioned, and is the only Grecian river which is navigable from its source. About the summer solstice it overflows like the Nile, and produces plants of the same nature; only they are meagre, and bear but little fruit. Its course is short, great part of it soon stopping in those dark and muddy fens. The rest falls into the river Cephissus, about the place where the water is bordered with such excellent canes for flutes.

The two armies being encamped opposite each other, Archelaus attempted not any thing. But Sylla began to cut trenches in several parts of the field, that he might, if possible, drive the enemy from the firm ground, which was so suitable for cavalry, and force them upon the morasses. The barbarians could not bear this, but, upon the first
signal

signal from their generals, rode up at full speed, and handled the labourers so rudely, that they all dispersed. The corps too, designed to support them, was put to flight. Sylla that moment leaped from his horse, seized one of the ensigns, and pushed through the middle of the fugitives towards the enemy, crying out, "Here, Romans, is the bed of honour I am to die in. Do you, when you are asked where you betrayed your general, remember to say, it was at Orchomenus." These words stopped them in their flight: besides two cohorts came from the right wing to his assistance, and at the head of this united corps he repulsed the enemy.

Sylla then drew back a little, to give his troops some refreshment; after which he brought them to work again, intending to draw a line of circumvallation round the barbarians. Hereupon they returned in better order than before. Diogenes, son-in-law to Archelaus, fell gloriously, as he was performing wonders on the right. Their archers were charged so close by the Romans, that they had not room to manage their bows, and therefore took a quantity of arrows in their hands, which they used instead of swords, and with them killed several of their adversaries. At last, however, they were broken and shut up in their camp, where they passed the night in great misery on account of their dead and wounded. Next morning Sylla drew out his men to continue the trench; and as numbers of the barbarians came out to engage him, he attacked and routed them so effectually, that from the terror they were in none stood to guard the camp, and he entered it with them. The fens were then filled with the blood of the slain, and the lake with dead bodies; insomuch that even now many of the weapons of the barbarians, bows, helmets, fragments of iron breast-plates, and swords, are found buried in the mud, though it is almost two hundred years since that battle. Such

is the account we have of the actions at Chaeroneæ and Orchomenus.

Meanwhile Cinna and Carbo behaved with so much rigour and injustice at Rome to persons of the greatest distinction, that many, to avoid their tyranny, retired to Sylla's camp, as to a safe harbour; so that in a little time he had a kind of senate about him. Metella with much difficulty stole from Rome with his children, and came to tell him that his enemies had burnt his house and all his villas, and to intreat him to return home where his help was so much wanted. He was much perplexed in his deliberations, neither chusing to neglect his afflicted country, nor knowing how to go and leave such an important object as the Mithridatic war in so unfinished a state, when he was addressed by a merchant of Delium, called Archelaus, on the part of the general of that name, who wanted to sound him about an accommodation, and to treat privately of the conditions of it.

Sylla was so charmed with the thing, that he hastened to a personal conference with the general. Their interview was on the sea coast near Delium, where stands a celebrated temple of Apollo. Upon their meeting, Archelaus proposed that Sylla should quit the Asiatic and Pontic expedition, and turn his whole attention to the civil war, engaging on the king's behalf to supply him with money, vessels and troops. Sylla proposed in answer, that Archelaus should quit the interest of Mithridates, be appointed king in his place, assume the title of an ally to the Romans, and put the king's shipping in his hands. When Archelaus expressed his detestation of this treachery, Sylla thus proceeded—"Is it possible, " then, that you, Archelaus, a Cappadocian, the " slave, or, if you please, the friend of a barbarous " king, should be shocked at a proposal, which, " however in some respects exceptionable, must be " attended with the most advantageous consequences?"

"Is

* Is it possible that to me, the Roman general, "to Sylla, you should take upon you to talk of "treachery?—As if you were not that same Archelaus, who at Chaeronea fled with a handful of "men, the poor remains of an hundred and twenty "thousand, who hid himself two days in the marshes "of Orchomenus, and left the roads of Boeotia "blocked up with heaps of dead bodies."—Upon this, Archelaus had recourse to entreaty, and begged at least a peace for Mithridates. This was allowed upon certain conditions—Mithridates was to give up Asia and Paphlagonia, cede Bythinia to Nicomedes, and Cappadocia to Ariobarzanes. He was to allow the Romans two thousand talents to defray the expence of the war, besides seventy armed gallies fully equipped. Sylla, on the other hand, was to secure Mithridates in the rest of his dominions, and procure him the title of friend and ally to the Romans.

These conditions being accepted and negotiated, Sylla returned through Thessaly and Macedonia towards the Hellespont. Archelaus, who accompanied him, was treated with the greatest respect, and when he happened to fall sick at Larissa, Sylla halted there for some time, and shewed him all the attention he could have paid to his own general officers, or even to his colleague himself. This circumstance rendered the battle of Chaeronea a little suspected, as if it had been gained by unfair means; and what added to the suspicion, was the restoring of all the prisoners of Mithridates except Aristion, the avowed enemy of Archelaus, who was taken off by poison. But what confirmed the whole was the cession of ten thousand acres in Euboea to the Cappadocian, and the title that was given him of friend and ally to the Romans. Sylla, however, in his commentaries obviates all these censures.

During his stay at Larissa, he received an embassy from Mithridates, entreating him not to insist upon his giving up Paphlagonia, and representing that the

demand of shipping was inadmissible. Sylla heard these remonstrances with indignation.—“What,” said he, “does Mithridates pretend to keep Paphlagonia, and refuse to send the vessels I demanded?” Mithridates! whom I should have expected to entreat me on his knees that I would spare that right hand which has slain so many Romans—“But I am satisfied that, when I return into Asia, he will change his style. While he resides at Pergamus he can direct at ease the war he has not not seen.” The ambassadors were struck dumb with this indignant answer, while Archelaus endeavoured to soothe and appease the anger of Sylla, by every mitigating expression and bathing his hand with his tears. At length he prevailed on the Roman general to send him to Mithridates, assuring him that he would obtain his consent to all the articles, or perish in the attempt.

Sylla upon this assurance dismissed him, and invaded Medica, where he committed great depredations, and then returned to Macedonia. He received Archelaus at Philippi, who informed him that he had succeeded perfectly well in his negociation, but that Mithridates was extremely desirous of an interview. His reason for it was this: Fimbria, who had slain the Consul Flaccus, one of the heads of the opposite faction, and defeated the king's generals, was now marching against Mithridates himself. Mithridates alarmed at this, wanted to form a friendship with Sylla.

Their interview was at Dardanus in the country of Troas. Mithridates came with two hundred galleys, an army of twenty thousand foot, six thousand horse, and a great number of armed chariots. Sylla had no more than four cohorts and two hundred horse. Mithridates came forward, and offered his hand, but Sylla first asked him, “whether he would stand to the conditions that Archelaus had settled with him?” The king hesitated upon it, and Sylla then
said,

said, "It is for petitioners to speak first, and for conquerors to hear in silence." Mithridates then began a long harangue, in which he endeavoured to apologize for himself by throwing the blame partly upon the gods and partly upon the Romans. At length Sylla interrupted him—"I have often," said he, "heard that Mithridates was a good orator, but now I know it by experience, since he has been able to give a colour to such unjust and abominable deeds."—Then he set forth in bitter terms, and in such a manner as could not be replied to, the king's shameful conduct, and in conclusion asked him again, "Whether he would abide by the conditions settled with Archelaus?" Upon his answering in the affirmative, Sylla took him in his arms and saluted him. Then he presented to him the two kings Ariobarzanes and Nicomedes, and reconciled them to each other.

Mithridates having delivered up to him seventy of his ships and five hundred archers, sailed back to Pontus. Sylla perceived that his troops were much offended at the peace: they thought it an insufferable thing, that a prince who, of all the kings in the universe, was the bitterest enemy to Rome, who had caused an hundred and fifty thousand Romans to be murdered in Asia in one day, should go off with the wealth and spoils of Asia, which he had been plundering and oppressing full four years. But he excused himself to them by observing that he should never have been able to carry on the war against both Fimbria and Mithridates, if they had joined their forces.

From thence he marched against Fimbria, who was encamped at Thyatira; and having marked out a camp very near him, he began upon the entrenchment. The soldiers of Fimbria came out in their vests, and saluted those of Sylla, and readily assisted them in their work. Fimbria seeing this desertion,

and withal dreading Sylla as an implacable enemy, dispatched himself upon the spot.

Sylla laid a fine upon Asia of twenty thousand talents; and beside this, the houses of private persons were ruined by the insolence and disorder of the soldiers he quartered upon them. For he commanded every householder to give the soldier who lodged with him, sixteen drachmas a day, and to provide a supper for him and as many friends as he chose to invite. A centurion was to have fifty drachmas a day, and one dress to wear within doors, and another in public.

These things settled, he set sail from Ephesus with his whole fleet, and reached the harbour of Piræus the third day. At Athens he got himself initiated in the mysteries of Ceres, and from that city he took with him the library of Apellicon the Teian, in which were most of the works of Aristotle and Theophrastus, books at that time not sufficiently known to the world. When they were brought to Rome, it is said that Tyrannio the grammarian prepared many of them for publication*, and that Andronicus the Rhodian, getting the manuscripts by his means, did actually publish them, together with those indexes that are now in every person's hands. The old Peripatetics appear indeed to have been men of curiosity and erudition; but they had neither met with many of Aristotle's and Theophrastus's books, nor were those they did meet with correct copies; because the inheritance of Neleus the Scepsian, to whom Theophrastus left his works, fell into mean and obscure hands.

During Sylla's stay at Athens, he felt a painful numbness in his feet, which Strabo calls the *lisp*ing of

* The Latin interpreter renders *ενοκευασαθαι* *intervertisse*, and Dacier *détourner*, both which signify *converted to his own use*. But they are certainly wrong. *Αποσκευασαθαι* has that sense. Besides, Cicero and Strabo gave Tyrannio a character that sets him above any meanness.

the gout. This obliged him to sail to Aedepfus, for the benefit of the warm baths, where he lounged away the day with mimics and buffoons and all the train of Bacchus. One day, as he was walking by the sea-side, some fishermen presented him with a curious dish of fish. Delighted with the present, he asked the people of what country they were, and when he heard they were Alaeans, "What," said he, "are any of the Alaeans then alive?" for, in pursuance of his victory at Orchomenus, he had razed three cities of Boeotia, Anthedon, Larymna, and Alaeae. The poor men were struck dumb with fear; but he told them, with a smile, "they might go away quite happy, for they had brought very respectable mediators with them." The Alaeans tell us, that from that time they took courage, and re-established themselves in their old habitations.

Sylla, now recovered, passed through Thessaly and Macedonia to the sea, intending to cross over from Dyrrachium to Brundisium with a fleet of twelve hundred sail. In that neighbourhood stands Apollonia, near which is a remarkable spot of ground called Nymphaeum*. The lawns and meadows are of incomparable verdure, though interspersed with springs from which continually issues fire. In this place, we are told, a satyr was taken asleep, exactly such as statuaries and painters represent to us. He was brought to Sylla, and interrogated in many languages who he was; but he uttered nothing intelligible; his accent being harsh and inarticulate, something between the neighing of a horse and the bleating of a goat. Sylla was shocked with his appearance and ordered him to be taken out of his presence.

When he was upon the point of embarking with his troops, he began to be afraid, that as soon as

* In this place the nymphs had an oracle, of the manner of consulting which, Dion. (l. 41.) tells us several ridiculous stories. Strabo, speaking of it in his seventh book, tells us the Nymphaeum is a rock, out of which issues fire, and that beneath it flow streams of flaming bitumen.

they

they reached Italy, they would disperse and retire to their respective cities. Hereupon they came to him of their own accord, and took an oath that they would stand by him to the last, and not wilfully do any damage to Italy. And as they saw he would want large sums of money, they went and collected each as much as they could afford, and brought it him. He did not, however, receive their contribution, but having thanked them for their attachment, and encouraged them to hope the best, he set sail. He had to go, as he himself tells us, against fifteen generals of the other party, who had under them no less than two hundred and fifty cohorts. But heaven gave him evident tokens of success. He sacrificed immediately upon his landing at Tarentum, and the liver of the victim had the plain impression* of a crown of laurel, with two strings hanging down. A little before his passage, there were seen in the day-time upon mount Hephaeum† in Campania, two great he-goats engaged, which used all the movements that men do in fighting. The phaenomenon raised itself by degrees from the earth into the air, where it dispersed itself in the manner of shadowy phantoms, and quite disappeared.

A little after this, young Marius, and Norbanus the consul, with two very powerful bodies, presumed to attack Sylla, who, without any regular disposition of his troops, or order of battle, by the mere valour and impetuosity of his soldiers, after having slain seven thousand of the enemy, obliged Norbanus to seek a refuge within the walls of Capua. This success he mentions as the cause why his soldiers did not desert, but despised the enemy, though greatly superior to them in numbers. He tells us, moreover, that

* The priests traced the figures they wanted upon the liver, on their hands, and by holding it very close, easily made the impression upon it while it was warm and pliant.

† There is no such mountain as Hephaeum known. Livy mentions the hills of Tifata near Capua.

an enthusiastic servant of Pontius in the town of Silvium announced him victorious, upon the communicated authority of Bellona, but informed him at the same time, that if he did not hasten, the capitol would be burnt—This actually happened on the day predicted, which was the sixth of July. About this time it was that Marcus Lucullus, one of Sylla's officers, who had no more than sixteen cohorts under his command, found himself on the point of engaging an enemy who had fifty: though he had the utmost confidence in the valour of his troops, yet, as many of them were without arms, he was doubtful about the onset. While he was deliberating about the matter, a gentle breeze bore from a neighbouring field a quantity of flowers that fell on the shields and helmets of the soldiers in such a manner that they appeared to be crowned with garlands. This circumstance had such an effect upon them *, that they charged the enemy with double vigour and courage, killed eighteen thousand, and became complete masters of the field, and of the camps. This Marcus Lucullus was brother to that Lucullus who afterwards conquered Mithridates and Tigranes.

Sylla still saw himself surrounded with armies and powerful enemies, to whom he was inferior in point of force, and therefore had recourse to fraud. He made Scipio, one of the consuls, some proposals for an accommodation, upon which many interviews and conferences ensued. But Sylla always finding some pretence for gaining time, was corrupting Scipio's soldiers all the while by means of his own, who were

* The use that the ancient Romans as well as Greeks made of enthusiasm and superstition, in war particularly, was so great, and so frequent, that it appears to take off much from the idea of their native courage and valour. The slightest circumstance, as in the improbable instance referred to of a preternatural kind, or bearing the least shadow of a religious ceremony, would animate them to those exploits, which, though a rational valour was certainly capable of effecting them, without such influence they would never have undertaken.

as well practised as their general in every art of solicitation. They entered their adversaries camp, and, mixing among them, soon gained them over, some by money, some by fair promises, and others by the most insinuating adulation. At last Sylla advancing to their entrenchments with twenty cohorts, Scipio's men saluted them as fellow-foldiers, and came out and joined them; so that Scipio was left alone in his tent, where he was taken, but immediately after dismissed in safety. These twenty cohorts were Sylla's decoy-birds, by which he drew forty more into his net, and then brought them all together into his camp. On this occasion Carbo is reported to have said, that in Sylla he had to contend both with a fox and a lion, but the fox gave him the most trouble.

The year following young Marius being consul, and at the head of fourscore cohorts, gave Sylla the challenge. Sylla was very ready to accept it that day in particular, on account of a dream he had the night before. He thought he saw old Marius, who had now been long dead, advising his son to beware of the ensuing day, as big with mischief to him. This made Sylla impatient for the combat. The first step he took towards it was to send for Dolabella, who was encamped at some distance. The enemy had blocked up the roads; and Sylla's troops were much harassed in endeavouring to open them. Besides, a violent rain happened to fall, and still more incommoded them in their work. Hereupon, the officers went and entreated Sylla to defer the battle till another day, shewing him how his men were worn out with fatigue, and seated upon the ground with their shields under them. Sylla yielded to their arguments, though with great reluctance, and gave them orders to entrench themselves.

They were just begun to put those orders in execution, when Marius rode boldly up, in hopes of finding them dispersed, and in great disorder. Fortune seized this moment for accomplishing Sylla's dream.

dream. His soldiers, fired with indignation, left their work, stuck their pikes in the trench, and with drawn swords and loud shouts ran to the charge. The enemy made but a slight resistance; they were routed, and vast numbers slain in their flight. Marius himself fled to Praeneste where he found the gates shut; but a rope was let down, to which he fastened himself, and so he was taken up over the wall.

Some authors, indeed, write, and among the rest Fenestella, that Marius saw nothing of the battle, but that being oppressed with watching and fatigue, he laid himself down in a shade, after the signal was given, and was not waked without difficulty when all was lost. Sylla says, he lost only three and twenty men in this battle, though he killed ten thousand of the enemy, and took eight thousand prisoners. He was equally successful with respect to his lieutenants Pompey, Crassus, Metellus, Servilius, who without any miscarriage at all, or with none of any consequence, defeated great and powerful enemies; inso-much that Carbo, who was the chief support of the opposite party, stole out of his camp by night, and passed over into Africa.

The last conflict Sylla had, was with Telesinus the Samnite. who entered the lists like a fresh champion against one that was weary, and was near throwing him at the very gates of Rome. Telesinus had collected a great body of forces, with the assistance of a Lucanian named Lamponius, and was hastening to the relief of Marius who was besieged in Praeneste. But he got intelligence that Sylla and Pompey were advancing against him by long marches, the one to take him in front, and the other in rear, and that he was in the utmost danger of being hemmed in, both before and behind. In this case, like a man of great abilities, and experience of the most critical kind, he decamped by night, and marched with his whole army directly towards Rome; which was in so
unguarded

unguarded a condition, that he might have entered it without difficulty. But he stopped when he was only ten furlongs from the Colline gate, and contented himself with passing the night before the walls, greatly encouraged and elevated at the thought of having outdone so many great commanders in point of generalship.

Early next morning the young nobility mounted their horses, and fell upon him. He defeated them, and killed a considerable number; among the rest fell Appius Claudius, a young man of spirit, and of one of the most illustrious families in Rome. The city was now full of terror and confusion—the women ran about the streets, bewailing themselves, as if it was just going to be taken by assault—when Balbus, who was sent before by Sylla, appeared advancing at full speed with seven hundred horse. He stopped just long enough to give his horses time to cool, and then bridled them again, and proceeded to keep the enemy in play.

In the mean time Sylla made his appearance, and having caused his first ranks to take a speedy refreshment, he began to put them in order of battle. Dolabella and Torquatus pressed him to wait some time, and not lead his men in that fatigued condition to an engagement that must prove decisive. For he had not now to do with Carbo and Marius, but with Samnites and Lucanians, the most inveterate enemies to the Roman name. However, he overruled their motion, and ordered the trumpets to sound to the charge, though it was now so late as the tenth hour of the day. There was no battle during the whole war fought with such obstinacy as this. The right wing, commanded by Crassus, had greatly the advantage; but the left was much distressed, and began to give way. Sylla made up to its assistance. He rode a white horse of uncommon spirit and swiftness; and two of the enemy, knowing him by it, levelled their spears at him. He himself perceived it not,
but

but his groom did, and with a sudden lash made the horse spring forward, so that the spears only grazed his tail, and fixed themselves in the ground. It is said that in all his battles he wore in his bosom, a small golden image of Apollo which he brought from Delphi. On this occasion he kissed * it with particular devotion, and addressed it in these terms—
 “ O Pythian Apollo, who has conducted the fortunate Cornelius Sylla through so many engagements with honour! when thou hast brought him to the threshold of his country, wilt thou let him fall there inglorious by the hands of his own citizens?”

After this act of devotion Sylla endeavoured to rally his men: some he entreated, some he threatened and others he forced back to the charge. But at length his whole left wing was routed, and he was obliged to mix with the fugitives to regain his camp, after having lost many of his friends of the highest distinction. A good number, too, of those who came out of the city to see the battle, were trodden under foot and perished. Nay, Rome itself was thought to be absolutely lost; and the siege of Praeneste, where Marius had taken up his quarters, near being raised. For after the defeat many of the fugitives repaired thither, and desired Lucretius Ofella, who had the direction of the siege, to quit it immediately, because (they said) Sylla was slain, and his enemies masters of Rome.

But the same evening, when it was quite dark, there came persons to Sylla's camp, on the part of Crassus, to desire refreshments for him and his soldiers. For he had defeated the enemy, and pursued them to Antemna, where he was sat down to besiege them. Along with this news, Sylla was informed, that the greatest part of the enemy was cut off in the

* By this it appears, that the Heathens made the same use of the images of their gods, which the Romanists do of images and reliques.

action. As soon, therefore, as it was day, he repaired to Antemna. There three thousand of the other faction sent deputies to him to intercede for mercy; and he promised them impunity, on condition they would come to him after some notable stroke against the rest of his enemies. Confiding in his honour, they fell upon another corps, and thus many of them were slain by the hands of their fellow-soldiers. Sylla, however, collected these, and what was left of the others, to the number of six thousand, into the Circus; and at the same time assembled the senate in the temple of Bellona. The moment he began his harangue, his soldiers, as they had been ordered, fell upon those six thousand poor wretches, and cut them in pieces. The cry of such a number of people massacred in a place of no great extent, as may well be imagined, was very dreadful. The senators were struck with astonishment. But he with a firm and unaltered countenance continuing his discourse, “bade them attend to what he was saying, and not trouble themselves about what was doing without; for the noise they heard came only from some malefactors, whom he had ordered to be chastised.”

It was evident from hence to the least discerning among the Romans, that they were not delivered from tyranny; they had only changed their tyrant. Marius, indeed, from the first was of a harsh and severe disposition, and power did not produce, it only added to his cruelty. But Sylla, at the beginning, bore prosperity with great moderation; though he seemed more attached to the patricians, it was thought he would protect the rights of the people; he had loved to laugh from his youth, and had been so compassionate that he often melted into tears. This change in him, therefore, could not but cast a blemish upon power. On his account it was believed, that high honours and fortunes will not suffer men's manners to remain in their original simplicity, but that

that it begets in them insolence, arrogance and inhumanity. Whether power does really produce such a change of disposition, or whether it only displays the native badness of heart, belongs however to another department of letters to enquire.

Sylla now turning himself to kill and to destroy, filled the city with massacres which had neither number nor bounds. He even gave up many persons, against whom he had no complaint, to the private revenge of his creatures. At last one of the young nobility, named Caius Metellus, ventured to put these questions to him in the senate—"Tell us, Sylla, " when shall we have an end of our calamities? how " far thou wilt proceed, and when we may hope thou " wilt stop? We ask thee not to spare those whom " thou hast marked out for punishment, but we ask " an exemption from anxiety for those whom thou " hast determined to save." Sylla said, "he did not " yet know whom he should save." "Then," replied Metellus, "let us know whom thou intendest to destroy:" and Sylla answered, "he would do it." Some indeed, ascribe the last reply to Aufidius, one of Sylla's flatterers.

Immediately upon this, he proscribed eighty citizens, without consulting any of the magistrates in the least. And as the public expressed their indignation at this, the second day after, he proscribed two hundred and twenty more, and as many on the third. Then he told the people from the Rostrum, "He " had now proscribed all that he remembered; and " such as he had forgot, must come into some future " proscription." Death was the punishment he ordained for any who should harbour or save a person proscribed, without excepting a brother, a son, or a parent. Such was to be the reward of humanity. But two talents were to be the reward of murder, whether it were a slave that killed his master, or a son his father. The most unjust circumstance, however, of all, seemed to be, that he declared the sons

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and grandsons of proscribed persons infamous, and confiscated their goods.

The lists were put up not only at Rome, but in all the cities of Italy. Neither temple of the gods, nor paternal dwelling, nor hearth of hospitality, was any protection against murder. Husbands were dispatched in the bosoms of their wives, and sons in those of their mothers. And the sacrifices to resentment and revenge, were nothing to those who fell on account of their wealth. So that it was a common saying among the ruffians, "His fine house was the death of such a one, his gardens of another, and his hot baths of a third." Quintus Aurelius, a quiet man, who thought he could have no share in these miseries, but that which compassion gave him, came one day into the Forum, and out of curiosity read the names of the proscribed. Finding his own, however, among the rest, he cried out, "Wretch that I am! my Alban villa pursues me:" and he had not gone far before a ruffian came up and killed him.

In the mean time young Marius being taken*, slew himself. Sylla then came to Praeneste, where at first he tried the inhabitants and had them executed singly. But afterwards finding he had not leisure for such formalities, he collected them to the number of twelve thousand, and ordered them to be put to death, excepting only one who had formerly entertained him at his house. This man with a noble spirit told him, "he would never owe his life to the destroyer of his country;" and voluntarily mixing with the crowd, he died with his fellow-citizens. The strangest, however, of all his proceedings was that with respect to Catiline. This wretch had killed his own brother during the civil war, and now he desired Sylla to put him amongst the proscribed, as a

* He was not taken; but as he was endeavouring to make his escape by a subterraneous passage, he found it beset by Sylla's soldiers; whereupon he ordered one of his slaves to kill him.

person still alive; which he made no difficulty of doing. Catiline in return went and killed one Marcus Marius who was of the opposite faction, brought his head to Sylla, as he sat upon his tribunal in the Forum, and then washed his hands in the lustral * water at the door of Apollo's temple, which was just by.

These massacres were not the only thing that afflicted the Romans. He declared himself dictator, reviving that office in his own favour, though there had been no instance of it for an hundred and twenty years. He got a decree of amnesty for all he had done: and, as to the future, it invested him with power of life and death, of confiscating, of colonizing, of building or demolishing cities, of giving or taking away kingdoms at his pleasure. He exercised his power in such an insolent and despotic manner with regard to confiscated goods, that his applications of them from the tribunal were more intolerable than the confiscations themselves. He gave to handsome prostitutes, to harpers, to buffoons, and to the most wicked of his enfranchised slaves, the revenues of whole cities and provinces, and compelled women of condition to marry some of those ruffians.

He was desirous of an alliance with Pompey the Great, and made him divorce the wife he had, in order to his marrying Aemilia, the daughter of Scaurus by his own wife Metella, though he had to force her from Manius Glabrio by whom she was pregnant. The young lady, however, died in childbirth in the house of Pompey her second husband.

Lucretius Ofella, who had besieged Marius in Praeneste, now aspired to the consulship, and prepared to sue for it. Sylla forbade him to proceed;

* Here is another instance of a heathen custom adopted by the Romanists. An exclusion from the use of this holy water was considered by the Greeks as a sort of excommunication. We find Oedipus prohibiting it to the murderers of Laius.

SOPHOC. Oedip. Act ii. sc. 1.

and when he saw that in consequence of his interest with the people he appeared notwithstanding in public as a candidate, he sent one of the centurions who attended him, to dispatch that brave man, while he himself sat on his tribunal in the temple of Castor and Pollux, and looked down upon the murder. The people seized the centurion, and brought him with loud complaints before Sylla. He commanded silence, and told them the thing was done by his order; the centurion therefore was to be dismissed immediately.

About this time he led up his triumph, which was magnificent for the display of wealth, and of the royal spoils which were a new spectacle; but that which crowned all, was the procession of the exiles. Some of the most illustrious and most powerful of the citizens followed the chariot, and called Sylla their saviour and father, because by his means it was that they returned to their country, and were restored to their wives and children. When the triumph was over, he gave an account of his great actions in a set speech to the people, and was no less particular in relating the instances of his good fortune, than those of his valour. He even concluded with an order that for the future he should be called Felix (that is the fortunate). But in writing to the Grecians, and in his answers to their applications, he took the additional name of Epaphroditus (*the favourite of Venus*). The inscription upon the trophies left among us, is, LUCIUS CORNELIUS SYLLA EPAPHRODITUS. And to the twins he had by Metella, he gave the names of Faustus and Fausta, which in the Roman language signify *auspicious* and *happy*.

A still stronger proof of his placing more confidence in his good fortune, than in his achievements, was his laying down the dictatorship. After he had put an infinite number of people to death, broke in upon the constitution, and changed the form of government, he had the hardiness to leave the people
full

full power to chuse consuls again; while he himself, without pretending to any direction of their suffrages, walked about the Forum as a private man, and put it in the power of any person to take his life. In the first election, he had the mortification to see his enemy Marcus Lepidus, a bold and enterprising man, declared consul, not by his own interest, but by that of Pompey, who on this occasion exerted himself with the people. And when he saw Pompey going off happy in his victory, he called him to him, and said, "No doubt, young man, your politics are very excellent, since you have preferred Lepidus to Catulus, the worst and most stupid of men to the best. It is high time to awake, and be upon your guard, now you have strengthened your adversary against yourself." Sylla spoke this from something like a prophetic spirit; for Lepidus soon acted with the utmost insolence, as Pompey's declared enemy.

Sylla gave the people a magnificent entertainment, on account of his dedicating the tenths of his substance to Hercules. The provisions were so overabundant, that a great quantity was thrown every day into the river; and the wine that was drank, was forty years old at least. In the midst of this feasting, which lasted many days, Metella sickened and died. As the priests forbade him to approach her, and to have his house defiled with mourning, he sent her a bill of divorce, and ordered her to be carried to another house while the breath was in her body. His superstition made him very punctilious in observing these laws of the priests; but by giving into the utmost profusions he transgressed a law of his own, which limited the expence of funerals. He broke in upon his own sumptuary law too, with respect to diet, by passing his time in the most extravagant banquets, and having recourse to debauches to combat anxiety.

A few months after he presented the people with a show of gladiators. And as at that time men and women had no separate places, but sat promiscuously in the theatre, a woman of great beauty, and of one of the best families, happened to sit near Sylla. She was the daughter of Messala, and sister to the orator Hortensius; her name Valeria; and she had lately been divorced from her husband. This woman, coming behind Sylla, touched him, and took off a little of the nap of his robe, and then returned to her place. Sylla looked at her, quite amazed at her familiarity; when she said, "Wonder not, my lord, at what I have done; I had only a mind to share a little in your good fortune." Sylla was far from being displeased; on the contrary it appeared that he was flattered very agreeably. For he sent to ask her name, and to enquire into her family and character. Then followed an exchange of amorous regards and smiles; which ended in a contract and marriage. The lady, perhaps, was not to be blamed. But Sylla, though he got a woman of reputation and great accomplishments, yet came into the match upon wrong principles. Like a youth, he was caught with soft looks, and languishing airs, things that are wont to excite the lowest of the passions.

Yet, notwithstanding he had married so extraordinary a woman, he continued his commerce with actresses and female musicians, and sat drinking whole days with a parcel of buffoons about him. His chief favourites at this time were Roscius the comedian, Sorex the mimic, and Metrobius who used to act a woman's part! * * * * *

* * * * * These courses added strength to a distemper that was but slight at the beginning; and for a long time he knew not that he had an abscess within him. This abscess corrupted his flesh, and turned it all into lice; so that, though he had many persons employed both day and night

to clean him, the part taken away was nothing to that which remained. His whole attire, his baths, his basons, and his food were filled with that perpetual flux of vermin and corruption. And though he bathed many times a day, to cleanse and purify himself, it was in vain. The corruption came on so fast, that it was impossible to overcome it.

We are told, that amongst the ancients, Acastus, the son of Pelias, died of this sickness; and of those that come nearer our times, Alcman the poet, Pherecydes the divine, Callisthenes the Olynthian, who was kept in close prison, and Mucius the lawyer. And if after these we may take notice of a man who did not distinguish himself by any thing laudable, but was noted another way, it may be mentioned, that the fugitive slave Eunus, who kindled up the *Servile* war in Sicily, and was afterwards taken and carried to Rome, died there of this disease.

Sylla not only foresaw his death, but has left something relating to it in his writings. He finished the twenty-second book of his Commentaries only two days before he died: and he tells us, that the Chaldeans had predicted, that after a life of glory he would depart in the height of his prosperity. He farther acquaints us, that his son who died a little before Metella, appeared to him in a dream, dressed in a mean garment, and desired him to bid adieu to his cares, and go along with him to his mother Metella, with whom he should live at ease, and enjoy the charms of tranquility. He did not, however, withdraw his attention from public affairs. It was but ten days before his death that he reconciled the contending parties at Puteoli*, and gave them a set of laws for the regulation of their police. And the very day before he died, upon information that the quaestor Granius would not pay what he was indebted to the state, but waited for his death to avoid paying it at all, he sent for him into his apart-

* In the Greek *Dicaearchia*, which is another name for *Puteoli*.

ment, planted his servants about him, and ordered them to strangle him. The violence with which he spoke, strained him so much, that the imposthume broke, and he voided a vast quantity of blood. His strength now failed fast, and, after he had passed the night in great agonies, he expired. He left two young children by Metella; and Valeria, after his death, was delivered of a daughter called *Posthuma*; a name given of course by the Romans to such as are born after the death of their father.

Many of Sylla's enemies now combined with Lepidus, to prevent his having the usual honours of burial. But Pompey, though he was somewhat displeased at Sylla, because, of all his friends, he had left him only out of his will, in this case interposed his authority; and prevailed upon some by his interest and entreaties, and on others by menaces, to drop their opposition. Then he conveyed the body to Rome, and conducted the whole funeral, not only with security, but with honour. Such was the quantity of spices brought in by the women, that exclusive of two hundred and ten great baskets carried in, a figure of Sylla at full length, and of a *Lictor* besides, was made entirely of cinnamon and the choicest frankincense. The day happened to be so cloudy, and the rain was so much expected, that it was about the ninth hour † before the corpse was carried out. However, it was no sooner laid upon the pile, than a brisk wind blew, and raised so strong a flame, that it was consumed immediately. But after the pile was burnt down, and the fire began to die out, a great rain fell which lasted till night. So that his good fortune continued to the last, and assisted at his funeral. His monument stands in the Campus Martius: and they tell us he wrote an epitaph for himself to this purport, "No friend ever did me so much good, or enemy so much harm, but I repaid him with interest.

† Three in the afternoon.

LYSANDER *and* SYLLA, *compared.*

WE have now gone through the life of Sylla, and will proceed to the comparison. This, then, Lyfander and he have in common, that they were entirely indebted to themselves for their rise. But Lyfander has this advantage, that the high offices he gained were with the consent of the people, while the constitution of his country was in a sound and healthy state ; and that he got nothing by force or by acting against the laws—

In civil broils the worst of men may rise.

So it was then in Rome. The people were so corrupt, and the republic in so sickly a condition, that tyrants sprung up on every side. Nor is it any wonder if Sylla gained the ascendant, at a time when wretches like Glaucias and Saturninus expelled such men as Metellus, when the sons of consuls were murdered in the public assemblies, when men supported their seditious purposes with soldiers purchased with money, and laws were enacted with fire and sword and every species of violence*.

In such a state of things, I do not blame the man who raised himself to supreme power ; all I say

* We need no other instances than this, to shew that a republican government will never do in corrupt times.

is,

is, that when the commonwealth was in so depraved and desperate a condition, power was no evidence of merit. But since the laws and public virtue never flourished more at Sparta, than when Lysander was sent upon the highest and most important commissions, we may conclude that he was the best among the virtuous, and first among the great. Thus the one, though he often surrendered the command, had it as often restored to him by his fellow-citizens, because his virtue, which alone has a claim to the prize of honour, continued still the same*. The other, after he was once appointed general, usurped the command, and kept in arms for ten years, sometimes styling himself consul, sometimes proconsul, and sometimes dictator, but was always in reality a tyrant.

It is true, as we have observed above, Lysander did attempt a change in the Spartan constitution, but he took a milder and more legal method than Sylla. It was by persuasion†, not by arms, he proceeded; nor did he attempt to overturn every thing at once. He only wanted to correct the establishment as to kings. And indeed it seemed natural, that in a state which had the supreme direction of Greece, on account of its virtue rather than any other superiority, merit should gain the sceptre. For as the hunter and the jockey do not so much consider the breed, as the dog or horse already bred (for what if the foal should prove a mule?) so the politician would entirely miss his aim, if instead of enquiring into the qualities of a person for first magistrate, he looked upon nothing but his family. Thus the Spartans deposed some of their kings, because they had not princely talents,

* What kind of virtue can Plutarch possibly ascribe to Lysander?—Unless he means military virtue—Undoubtedly, he was a man of the greatest duplicity of character, of the greatest profaneness—For he corrupted the Priests and prostituted the honour of the gods, to gratify his personal envy and ambition.

† It was by hypocrisy, by profane and impious expedients.

but

but were persons of no worth or consequence. Vice, even with high birth, is dishonourable : and the honour which virtue enjoys, is all her own ; family has no share in it.

They were both guilty of injustice, but Lyfander *for* his friends, and Sylla *against* his. Most of Lyfander's frauds were committed for his creatures, and it was to advance them to high stations and absolute power that he dipped his hands in so much blood : whereas Sylla envied Pompey the army, and Dolabella the naval command he had given them ; and he attempted to take them away. And when Lucretius Ofella, after the greatest and most faithful services, solicited the consulship, he ordered him to be dispatched before his eyes. Terror and dismay seized all the world, when they saw one of his best friends thus murdered.

If we consider their behaviour with respect to riches and pleasure, we shall find the one the prince, and the other the tyrant. When the power and authority of Lyfander were so extensive, he was not guilty of one act of intemperance or youthful dissipation. He, if any man, avoided the sting of that proverb, *Lions within doors, and foxes without*. So sober, so regular, so worthy of a Spartan, was his manner of living. Sylla, on the other hand, neither let poverty set bounds to his passions in his youth, nor years in his age. But as Sallust says, while he was giving his countrymen laws for the regulation of marriages and for promoting sobriety, he indulged himself in adultery and every species of lust.

By his debaucheries he so drained the public treasures, that he was obliged to let many cities in alliance and friendship with Rome purchase independence, and the privilege of being governed only by their own laws ; though at the same time he was daily confiscating the richest and best houses in Rome. Still more immense were the sums he squandered upon his flatterers. Indeed, what bounds or moderation could be expected in his private gifts, when his heart was dilated

dilated with wine, if we do but attend to one instance of his behaviour in public? One day as he was selling a considerable estate, which he wanted a friend to have at an under-price, another offered more, and the crier proclaiming the advance, he turned with indignation to the people, and said, "What outrage and tyranny is this, my friends, that I am not allowed to dispose of my own spoils as I please?"

Far from such rapaciousness, Lyfander, to the spoils he sent his countrymen, added his own share. Not that I praise him in that: for perhaps he hurt Sparta more essentially by the money he brought into it, than Sylla did Rome by that which he took from it. I only mention it as a proof of the little regard he had for riches. It was something very particular, however, that Sylla, while he abandoned himself to all the profusion of luxury and expence, should bring the Romans to sobriety; whereas Lyfander subjected the Spartans to those passions which he restrained in himself. The former acted worse than his own laws directed, and the other brought his people to act worse than himself: for he filled Sparta with the love of that which he knew how to despise. Such they were in their political capacity.

As to military achievements and acts of generalship, the number of victories and the dangers he had to combat, Sylla is beyond comparison. Lyfander, indeed, gained two naval victories; to which we may add his taking of Athens; for, though that affair was not difficult in the execution, it was glorious in its consequences. As to his miscarriage in Boeotia and at Haliartus, ill fortune, perhaps, had some concern in it, but it was principally owing to indiscretion; since he would not wait for the great reinforcement which the king was bringing from Plataeae, and which was upon the point of joining him, but with an ill-timed resentment and ambition marched up to the walls. Hence it was, that he was slain by
some

some troops of no consideration, who sallied out to the attack. He fell not as Cleombrotus did at Leuctra, who was slain as he was making head against an impetuous enemy; nor like Cyrus, or Epaminondas, who received a mortal wound as he was rallying his men and ensuring to them the victory. These great men died the death of generals and kings. But Lysander threw away his life ingloriously like a common soldier or desperate adventurer. By his death he shewed how right the ancient Spartans were in not choosing to fight against stone walls, where the bravest man in the world may be killed, I will not say by an insignificant man, but by a child or a woman. So Achilles is said to have been slain by Paris at the gates of Troy. On the other hand, so many pitched battles were won by Sylla, and so many myriads of enemies killed, that it is not easy to number them. He took Rome itself twice*, and the Piræus at Athens, not by famine, as Lysander had done, but by assault, after he had defeated Archelaus in several great battles at land, and forced him to take refuge in his fleet.

It is a material point, too, to consider what generals they had to oppose. I can look upon it as no more than the play of children, to have beaten Antiochus, who was no better than Acibiades's pilot, and to have outwitted Philocles the Athenian Demagogue,

A man whose tongue was sharpened, not his sword.

Mithridates would not have compared them with his groom, nor Marius with one of his lictors. But Sylla had to contend with princes, consuls, generals, and tribunes of the highest influence and abilities; and, to name but a few of them, who among the Romans was more formidable than Marius; among

* Whatever military merit he might display in other battles, he had certainly none in the taking of Rome: for it was not generalship, but necessity that brought it into his hands.

the kings, more powerful than Mithridates; or among the people of Italy, more warlike than Lamponius and Telefinus? yet Sylla banished the first, subdued the second, and killed the other two.

What is of more consequence, in my opinion, than any thing yet mentioned, is, that Lyfander was supported in all his enterprizes by his friends at home, and owed all his success to their assistance; whereas Sylla, a banished man, overpowered by a faction, at a time when his enemies were expelling his wife, destroying his house, and putting his friends to death, fought the battles of his country on the plains of Boeotia against armies that could not be numbered, and was victorious in her cause. This was not all: Mithridates offered to second him with all his power and join him with all his forces against his enemies at Rome, yet he relaxed not the least of his demands, nor shewed him the least countenance. He would not so much as return his salutation, or give him his hand, till he promised in person to relinquish Asia, to deliver up his ships, and to restore Bithynia and Cappadocia to their respective kings. There was nothing in the whole conduct of Sylla more glorious, or that shewed greater magnanimity. He preferred the public good to his own: like a dog of generous breed, he kept his hold till his adversary had given out, and after that he turned to revenge his own cause.

The different methods they observed with respect to the Athenians, contribute not a little to mark their characters. Sylla, though they bore arms against him for Mithridates, after he had taken their city, indulged them with their liberty and the privilege of their own laws: Lyfander shewed no sort of compassion for a people of late so glorious and powerful, but abolished the popular government, and set over them the most cruel and unjust of tyrants.

Perhaps,

Perhaps, we shall not be wide of the truth, if we conclude that in the life of Sylla there are more great actions, and in Lysander's fewer faults; if we assign to the Grecian the prize of temperance and prudence, and to the Roman that of valour and capacity for war.

CIMON.

C I M O N.

PERIPOLTAS * the diviner, who conducted king Opheltas and his subjects from Theffaly into Boeotia, left a family that flourished for many ages. The greatest part of that family dwelt in Chaeronea, where they first established themselves, after the expulsion of the barbarians. But, as they were of a gallant and martial turn, and never spared themselves in time of action, they fell in the wars with the Medes and the Gauls. There remained only a young orphan, named Damon, and surnamed Peripoltas. Damon in beauty of person and dignity of mind far exceeded all of his age, but he was of a harsh and morose temper, unpolished by education.

He was now in the dawn of youth, when a Roman officer, who wintered with his company in Chaeronea, conceived a criminal passion for him; and, as he found solicitations and presents of no avail, he was preparing to use force. It seems, he despised our city, whose affairs were then in a bad situation, and whose smallness and poverty rendered it an object of no importance. As Damon dreaded some violence,

* Plutarch here introduces an obscure and dirty story, for the sake of talking of the place of his nativity.

and withal was highly provoked at the past attempts, he formed a design against the officer's life, and drew some of his comrades into the scheme. The number was but small, that the matter might be more private; in fact they were no more than sixteen. One night they daubed their faces over with soot, after they had drank themselves up to a pitch of elevation, and next morning fell upon the Roman as he was sacrificing in the market-place. The moment they had killed him, and a number of those that were about him, they fled out of the city. All was now in confusion. The senate of Chaeronea met and condemned the assassins to death in order to excuse themselves to the Romans. But as the magistrates supped together according to custom, Damon and his accomplices returned in the evening, broke into the town-hall, killed every man of them, and then made off again.

It happened that Lucius Lucullus, who was going upon some expedition, marched that way. He stopped to make an enquiry into the affair which was quite recent, and found that the city was so far from being accessory to the death of the Roman officer, that it was a considerable sufferer itself. He therefore withdrew the garrison, and took the soldiers with him.

Damon, for his part, committed depredations in the adjacent country, and greatly harassed the city.

The Chaeroneans endeavoured to decoy him by frequent messages and decrees in his favour: and when they had got him among them again, they appointed him master of the wrestling ring; but soon took an opportunity to dispatch him as he was anointing himself in the bagnio. Our fathers tell us, that for a long time certain spectres appeared on that spot, and sad groans were heard; for which reason the doors of the bagnio were walled up. And to this very day those who live in that neighbourhood imagine that they see strange sights, and are alarmed with doleful voices.

There are some remains, however, of Damon's family, who live mostly in the town of Stiris in Phocis. These are called, according to the Aeolic dialect, *Asbolomenoi* *, that is, *Sooty-faced*, on account of their ancestor's having smeared his face with soot, when he went about the assassination.

The people of Orchomenus, who were neighbours to the Chaeroneans, having some prejudice against them, hired a Roman informer to accuse the city of the murder of those who fell by the hands of Damon and his associates, and to prosecute it as if it had been an individual. The cause came before the governor of Macedonia, for the Romans had not yet sent praetors into Greece; and the persons employed to plead for the city, appealed to the testimony of Lucullus. Upon this, the governor wrote to Lucullus, who gave a true account of the affair, and by that means delivered Chaeronea from utter ruin.

Our forefathers, in gratitude for their preservation, erected a marble statue to Lucullus in the market-place, close by that of Bacchus. And though many ages are since elapsed, we are of opinion that the obligation extends even to us. We are persuaded too, that a representation of the body is not comparable to that of the mind and the manners, and therefore, in this work of lives compared, shall insert his. We shall, however, always adhere to the truth; and Lucullus will think himself sufficiently repaid by our perpetuating the memory of his actions. He cannot want, in return for his true testimony, a false and fictitious account of himself. When a painter has to draw a fine and elegant form, which happens to have some little blemish, we do not want him entirely to pass over that blemish, nor yet to mark it with exactness. The one would spoil the beauty of the picture, and the other destroy the likeness. So in our present work, since it is very difficult, or rather

* In the Attic dialect it would be *Ἡσβολομένης*. The Aeolic was the vernacular dialect of the Phocians

impossible,

impossible, to find any life whatever without it's spots and errors, we must set the good qualities in full light, with all the likeness of truth. But we consider the faults and stains that proceed either from some sudden passion, or from political necessity, rather as defects of virtue, than signs of a bad heart; and for that reason we shall cast them a little into shade, in reverence to human nature, which produces no specimen of virtue absolutely pure and perfect.

When we looked out for one to put in comparison with Cimon, Lucullus seemed the properest person. They were both of a warlike turn, and both distinguished themselves against the barbarians. They were mild in their administration; they reconciled the contending factions in their country. They both gained great victories, and erected glorious trophies. No Grecian carried his arms to more distant countries than Cimon, or Roman than Lucullus. Hercules and Bacchus only exceeded them; unless we add the expeditions of Perseus against the Aethiopians, Medes and Armenians, and that of Jason against Colchis. But the scenes of these last actions are laid in such very ancient times, that we have some doubt whether the truth could reach us. This also they have in common, that they left their wars unfinished; they both pulled their enemies down, but neither of them gave them their death's blow. The principal mark, however, of likeness in their characters, is their affability and gentleness of deportment in doing the honours of their houses, and the magnificence and splendor with which they furnished their tables. Perhaps, there are some other resemblances which we pass over, that may easily be collected from their history itself.

Cimon was the son of Miltiades and Hegesipyla. That Lady was a Thracian, and daughter to king Olorus, as it stands recorded in the poems of Archelaus and Melanthius, written in honour of Cimon. So that Thucydides, the historian, was his relation,

for his father was called Olorus* ; a name that had been long in the family, and he had gold mines in Thrace. Thucydides is said, too, to have been killed in Scapte Hyle †, a place in that country. His remains, however, were brought into Attica, and his monument is shewn among those of Cimon's family, near the tomb of Elpinice, sister to Cimon. But Thucydides was of the ward of Alimus, and Miltiades of that of Lacias. Miltiades was condemned to pay a fine of fifty talents, for which he was thrown into prison by the government, and there he died. He left his son Cimon very young, and his daughter Elpinice was not yet marriageable.

Cimon, at first, was a person of no reputation, but censured as a disorderly and riotous young man. He was even compared to his grandfather Cimon, who for his stupidity was called *Coalemos* (that is, *Idiot*). Stefimbrotus the Thasian, who was his contemporary, says, he had no knowledge of music, or any other accomplishment which was in vogue among the Greeks, and that he had not the least spark of the Attic wit or eloquence; but that there was a generosity and sincerity in his behaviour, which shewed the composition of his soul to be rather of the Peloponnesian kind. Like the Hercules of Euripides, he was

Rough and unbred, but great on great occasions,
and therefore we may well add that article to the account Stefimbrotus has given us of him.

In his youth, he was accused of a criminal commerce with his sister Elpinice ‡. There are other

* Ολορὸς τε πατὴρ ἦν εἰς τὸν τροχόνον ἀναβέροντος τὴν ὀρυμνίαν —

† *Scapte Hyle*, signifies a wood full of trenches. Stephanus (de urb.) calls it Scaptesule.

‡ Some say Elpinice was only half-sister to Cimon, and that as such he married her; the laws of Athens not forbidding him to marry one that was sister only by the father's side. Cornelius Nepos expressly affirms it.

instances,

instances, indeed, mentioned of Elpinice's irregular conduct, particularly with respect to Polygnotus the painter. Hence it was, we are told, that when he painted the Trojan women, in the portico then called *Pleſianaſtion*, * but now *Poekile*, he drew Elpinice's face in the character of Laodice. Polygnotus, however, was not a painter by profeſſion, nor did he receive wages for his work in the portico, but painted without reward, to recommend himſelf to his countrymen. So the hiſtorians write, as well as the poet Melanthius in theſe verſes—

*The temples of the gods,
The fanes of heroes, and Cecropian halls,
His liberal hand adorn'd.*

It is true, there are ſome who aſſert that Elpinice did not live in a private commerce with Cimon, but that ſhe was publickly married to him, her poverty preventing her from getting a huſband ſuitable to her birth. Afterwards Callias, a rich Athenian, falling in love with her, made a propoſal to pay the government her father's fine, if ſhe would give him her hand, which condition ſhe agreed to, and, with her brother's conſent, became his wife. Still it muſt be acknowledged that Cimon had his attachments to the ſex. Witneſs his miſtreſſes Ariſteria of Salamis, and one Mneſtra, on whoſe account the poet Melanthius jeſts upon him in his elegies. And though he was legally married to Iſodice, the daughter of Euryptolemus the ſon of Megacles, yet he was too uxorious while ſhe lived, and at her death he was inconſolable, if we may judge from the elegies that were addreſſed to him by way of comfort and condolence. Panaetius the philoſopher thinks Archelaus the phyſician was author of thoſe elegies, and from the times in which he flouriſhed, the conjecture ſeems not improbable.

* Diogenes, Suidas, and others, call it *Peiſianaſtion*.

The rest of Cimon's conduct was great and admirable. In courage he was not inferior to Miltiades, nor in prudence to Themistocles, and he was confessedly an honest man than either of them. He could not be said to come short of them in abilities for war; and even while he was young and without military experience, it is surprising how much he exceeded them in political virtue. When Themistocles, upon the invasion of the Medes, advised the people to quit their city and territory, and retire to the straits of Salamis to try their fortunes in a naval combat, the generality were astonished at the rashness of the enterprize. But Cimon, with a gay air, led the way with his friends through the Ceramicus to the citadel, carrying a bridle in his hand to dedicate to the goddesses. This was to shew that Athens had no need of cavalry, but of marine forces, on the present occasion. After he had consecrated the bridle, and taken down a shield from the wall, he paid his devotions to the goddesses, and then went down to the sea; by which means he inspired numbers with courage to embark. Besides, as the poet Ion informs us, he was not unhandsome in his person, but tall and majestic, and had abundance of hair which curled upon his shoulders. He distinguished himself in so extraordinary a manner in the battle, that he gained not only the praise, but the hearts of his countrymen; insomuch that many joined his train, and exhorted him to think of designs and actions worthy of those at Marathon.

When he applied for a share in the administration, the people received him with pleasure. By this time they were weary of Themistocles, and as they knew Cimon's engaging and humane behaviour to their whole body, consequent upon his natural mildness and candour, they promoted him to the highest honours and offices in the state. Aristides, the son of Lyfimachus, contributed not a little to his advancement. He saw the goodness of his disposition, and
fer

set him up as a rival against the keenness and daring spirit of Themistocles.

When the Medes were driven out of Greece, Cimon was elected admiral. The Athenians had not now the chief command at sea, but acted under the orders of Pausanias the Lacedaemonian. The first thing Cimon did, was to equip his countrymen in a more commodious manner, and to make them much better seamen than the rest. And as Pausanias began to treat with the barbarians, and write letters to the king, about betraying the fleet to them, and in consequence of which treated the allies in a rough and haughty style, and foolishly gave into many unnecessary and oppressive acts of authority; Cimon, on the other hand, listened to the complaints of the injured with so much gentleness and humanity, that he insensibly gained the command of Greece, not by arms, but by his kind and obliging manners. For the greatest part of the allies, no longer able to bear the severity and pride of Pausanias, put themselves under the direction of Cimon and Aristides. At the same time they wrote to the Ephori, to desire them to recall Pausanias, by whom Sparta was so dishonoured, and all Greece so much discomposed.

It is related, that when Pausanias was at Byzantium, he cast his eyes upon a young virgin named Cleonice, of a noble family there, and insisted on having her for a mistress. The parents, intimidated by his power, were under the hard necessity of giving up their daughter. The young woman begged that the light might be taken out of his apartment, that she might go to his bed in secrecy and silence. When she entered he was asleep, and she unfortunately stumbled upon the candlestick, and threw it down. The noise waked him suddenly, and he, in his confusion, thinking it was an enemy coming to assassinate him, unsheathed his dagger that lay by him, and plunged it into the virgin's heart. After this he could never rest. Her image appeared to him every

night, and with a menacing tone repeated this heroic verse—

Go to the fate which pride and lust prepare!

The allies, highly incensed at this infamous action, joined Cimon to besiege him in Byzantium. But he found means to escape thence; and, as he was still haunted by the spectre, he is said to have applied to a temple at Heraclea *, where the *manes* of the dead were consulted. There he invoked the spirit of Cleonice †, and intreated her pardon. She appeared, and told him, “he would soon be delivered from all his troubles, after his return to “Sparta:” in which, it seems, his death ‡ was enigmatically foretold. These particulars we have from many historians.

All the confederates had now put themselves under the conduct of Cimon, and he sailed with them to Thrace, upon intelligence that some of the most honourable of the Persians, and of the king's relations, had seized the city of Eion upon the river Strymon, and greatly harassed the Greeks in that neighbourhood. Cimon engaged and defeated the Persian forces, and then shut them up in the town. After this, he dislodged the Thracians above the Strymon, who had used to supply the town with provisions, and kept so strict a guard over the country, that no convoys could escape him. By this means the place was reduced to such extremity, that Butes the king's general, in absolute despair, set fire to it, and so perished there with his friends and all his substance.

* Heraclea was a place near Olympia. Pausanias applied to the necromancers there, called *Psychagogi*, whose office it was to call up departed spirits.

† Thus we find that it was a custom in the Pagan as well as in the Hebrew theology to conjure up the spirits of the dead, and that the witch of Endor was not the only witch in the world.

‡ The Lacedaemonians having resolved to seize him, he fled for refuge to a temple of Minerva, called *Chalcioicos*. There they shut him up and starved him,

In

In consequence of this, Cimon became master of the town, but there was no advantage to be reaped from it worth mentioning, because the barbarians had destroyed all by fire. The country about it, however, was very beautiful and fertile, and that he settled with Athenians. For this reason the people of Athens permitted him to erect there three marble *Hermæ*, which had the following inscriptions.

*Where Strymon with his silver waves
The lofty towers of Eion laves,
The hapless Mede, with famine prest,
The force of Grecian arms confest.*

*Let him, who born in distant days,
Beholds these monuments of praise—
These forms that valour's glory save—
And sees how Athens crowns the brave,
For honour feel the patriot-sigh,
And for his country learn to die.*

*Afar to Phrygia's fated lands
When Mnestheus leads his Attic bands,
Behold! he bears in Homer still
The palm of military skill,
In every age, on every coast,
'Tis thus the sons of Athens boast!*

Though Cimon's name does not appear in any of these inscriptions, yet his cotemporaries considered them as the highest pitch of honour. For neither Themistocles nor Miltiades were favoured with any thing of that kind. Nay, when the latter asked only for a crown of olive, Sochares, of the ward of Decelea, stood up in the midst of the assembly, and spoke

spoke against it, in terms that were not candid indeed, but agreeable to the people. He said, "Miltiades, when you shall fight the barbarians and conquer alone, then ask to have honours paid you alone." What was it, then, that induced them to give the preference so greatly to this action of Cimon? was it not that under the other generals they fought for their lives and existence as a people, but under him they were able to distress their enemies, by carrying war into the countries where they had established themselves, and by colonizing Eion and Amphipolis? They planted a colony* too in the isle of Scyros, which was reduced by Cimon on the occasion I am going to mention. The Dolopes, who then held it, paid no attention to agriculture. They had so long been addicted to piracy, that at last they spared not even the merchants and strangers who came into their ports, but in that of Ctesium plundered some Thessalians who came to traffick with them, and put them in prison. These prisoners, however, found means to escape, and went and lodged an impeachment against the place before the Amphictyones, who commanded the whole island, to make restitution. Those who had no concern in the robbery, were unwilling to pay any thing, and, instead of that, called upon the persons who committed it, and had the goods in their hands, to make satisfaction. But these pirates, apprehensive of the consequence, sent to invite Cimon to come with his ships and take the town, which they promised to deliver up to him. In pursuance of this, Cimon took the island, expelled the Dolopes, and cleared the Aegean sea of corsairs.

This done, he recollected that their ancient hero Theseus, the son of Aegeus, had retired from Athens to Scyros, and was there treacherously killed by king

* This happened about the beginning of the seventy-seventh Olympiad.

Lycomedes, who entertained some suspicion of him. And, as there was an oracle * which had enjoined the Athenians to bring back his remains, and to honour him as a demi-god, Cimon set himself to search for his tomb. This was no easy undertaking; for the people of Scyros had all along refused to declare where he lay, or to suffer any search for his bones. At last, with much pains and enquiry, he discovered the repository, and put his remains, set off with all imaginable magnificence, on board his own galley, and carried them to the ancient seat of that hero, almost four hundred years † after he had left it.

Nothing could give the people more pleasure than this event. To commemorate it, they instituted games in which the tragic poets were to try their skill; and the dispute was very remarkable. Sophocles, then a young man, brought his first piece upon the theatre; and Aphepsion, the Archon, perceiving that the audience were not unprejudiced, did not appoint the judges by lot in the usual manner. The method he took was this: When Cimon and his officers had entered the theatre, and made the due libations to the god who presided over the games, the Archon would not suffer them to retire, but obliged them to sit down and select ten judges upon oath, one out of each tribe. The dignity of the judges caused an extraordinary emulation among the actors. Sophocles gained the prize; at which Aeschylus was so much grieved and disconcerted, that he could not bear to stay much longer in Athens, but in anger retired to Sicily, where he died, and was buried near Gela.

Ion tells us, that when he was very young, and lately come from Chios to Athens, he supped at

* This oracle was delivered to them four years before; in the first year of the seventy-sixth Olympiad.

† Plutarch could not make a mistake of four hundred years. We are persuaded, therefore, that he wrote *eight hundred*.

Laomedon's,

Laomedon's, with Cimon. After supper, when the libations were over, Cimon was desired to sing, and he did it so agreeably, that the company preferred him in point of politeness to Themistocles. For he, on a like occasion, said, "he had not learnt to sing, or play upon the harp; but he knew how to raise a small city to wealth and greatness." The conversation afterwards turned upon the actions of Cimon, and each of the guests dwelt upon such as appeared to him the most considerable: he, for his part, mentioned only this, which he looked upon as the most artful expedient he had made use of. A great number of barbarians were made prisoners in Sestos and at Byzantium; and the allies desired Cimon to make a division of the booty. Cimon placed the prisoners quite naked, on one side, and all their ornaments on the other. The allies complained, the shares were not equal; whereupon, he bade them take which part they pleased, assuring them that the Athenians would be satisfied with that they left. Herophytus the Samian advised them to make choice of the Persian spoils, and of course the Persian captives fell to the share of the Athenians. For the present, Cimon was ridiculed in private for the division he had made; because the allies had chains of gold, rich collars and bracelets, and robes of scarlet and purple to shew, while the Athenians had nothing but a parcel of naked slaves, and those very unfit for labour. But a little after, the friends and relations of the prisoners came down from Phrygia and Lydia, and gave large sums for their ransom. So that Cimon with the money purchased four months provisions for his ships, and sent a quantity of gold besides to the Athenian treasury.

Cimon by this time had acquired a great fortune; and what he had gained gloriously in the war from the enemy, he laid out with as much reputation upon his fellow-citizens. He ordered the fences of his fields and gardens to be thrown down, that strangers,

as well as his own countrymen, might freely partake of his fruit. He had a supper provided at his house every day, in which the dishes were plain, but sufficient for a multitude of guests. Every poor citizen repaired to it at pleasure, and had his diet without care or trouble; by which means he was enabled to give proper attention to public affairs. Aristotle, indeed, says, this supper was not provided for all the citizens in general, but only for those of his own tribe, which was that of Lacia*.

When he walked out, he used to have a retinue of young men well clothed, and if he happened to meet an aged citizen in a mean dress, he ordered some one of them to change clothes with him. This was great and noble. But beside this, the same attendants carried with them a quantity of money, and when they met in the market-place with any necessitous person of tolerable appearance, they took care to slip some pieces into his hand as privately as possible. Cratinus, the comic writer, seems to have referred to these circumstances in one of his pieces entitled Archilochi.

*Even I Metrobius, though a scrivener, hoped
To pass a chearful and a sleek old-age,
And live to my last hour at Cimon's table;
Cimon! the best and noblest of the Greeks!
Whose wide-spread bounty vied with that of heaven!
But, ah! he's gone before me!*

Gorgias, the Leontine, gives him this character, "He got riches to use them, and used them so as to be honoured on their account." And Critias, one of the thirty tyrants, in his elegies, thus expresses the utmost extent of his wishes.

* Cimon's ward being afterwards called Oeneis; it must be reconciled with this place from Stephanus, who tells us, *the Laciadae were a people of the ward Oeneis.*

*The wealth of * Scopas' heirs, the soul of Cimon,
And the fam'd trophies of Agesilaus.*

Lichas, the Lacedaemonian, we know, gained a great name among the Greeks, by nothing but entertaining strangers who came to see the public exercises of the Spartan youth. But the magnificence of Cimon exceeded even the ancient hospitality and bounty of the Athenians. They indeed taught the Greeks to sow bread-corn, to avail themselves of the use of wells, and of the benefit of fire : in these things they justly glory. But Cimon's house was a kind of common-hall for all the people ; the first-fruits of his lands were theirs ; whatever the seasons produced of excellent and agreeable, they freely gathered ; nor were strangers in the least debarred from them : so that he in some measure revived the community of goods, which prevailed in the reign of Saturn, and which the poets tell us so much of. Those who malevolently ascribed this liberality of his to a desire of flattering and courting the people, were refuted by the rest of his conduct, in which he favoured the nobility, and inclined to the constitution and custom of Lacedaemon. When Themistocles wanted to raise the power and privileges of the commons too high, he joined Aristides to oppose him. In like manner he opposed Ephialtes, who, to ingratiate himself with the people, attempted to abolish the court of Areopagus. He saw all persons concerned in the administration, except Aristides and Ephialtes, pillaging the public, yet he kept his own hands clean, and in all his speeches and actions continued to the last perfectly disinterested. One instance of this, they give us in his behaviour to Rhocfaces, a barbarian, who had revolted from the king of Persia, and was come to Athens with great treasures. This man finding

* Scopas, a rich Thessalian, is mentioned in the life of Cato.
himself

himself harassed by informers there, applied to Cimon for his protection; and, to gain his favour placed two cups, the one full of gold, and the other of silver darics, in his antichamber. Cimon, casting his eye upon them, smiled, and asked him, "Whether he should chuse to have him his mercenary or his friend?" "My friend, undoubtedly," said the barbarian. "Go then," said Cimon, "and take these things back with you; for if I be your friend, your money will be mine whenever I have occasion for it."

About this time, the allies, though they paid their contributions, began to scruple the furnishing of ships and men. They wanted to bid adieu to the troubles of war, and to till the ground in quiet and tranquillity, particularly as the barbarians kept at home, and gave them no disturbance. The other Athenian generals took every method to compel them to make good their quota, and by prosecutions and fines rendered the Athenian government oppressive and invidious. But Cimon took a different course, when he had the command. He used no compulsion to any Grecian; he took money and ships unmanned of such as did not chuse to serve in person; and thus suffered them to be led by the charms of ease to domestic employments, to husbandry and manufactures: so that of a warlike people they became, through an inglorious attachment to luxury and pleasure, quite unfit for any thing in the military department. On the other hand, he made all the Athenians in their turns serve on board his ships, and kept them in continual exercise. By these means he extended the Athenian dominion over the allies, who were all the while paying him for it. The Athenians were always upon one expedition or other, had their weapons for ever in their hands, and were trained up to every fatigue of service: hence it was that the allies learned to fear and flatter them, and instead of being
their

their fellow-soldiers, as formerly, insensibly became their tributaries and subjects.

Add to this, that no man humbled the pride and arrogance of the great king more than Cimon. Not satisfied with driving him out of Greece, he pursued his footsteps, and without suffering him to take breath, ravaged and laid waste some parts of his dominions, and drew over others to the Grecian league; infomuch that in all Asia, from Ionia to Pamphylia, there was not a Persian standard to be seen. As soon as he was informed that the king's fleets and armies lay upon the Pamphylian coasts, he wanted to intimidate them in such a manner that they should never more venture beyond the Chelidonian isles. For this purpose he set sail from Cnidus and Triopium with a fleet of two hundred galleys, which Themistocles had, in their first construction, made light and fit to turn with the utmost agility. Cimon widened them, and joined a platform to the deck of each, that there might in time of action be room for a greater number of combatants. When he arrived at Phaselis, which was inhabited by Greeks, but would neither receive his fleet. nor revolt from the king, he ravaged their territories, and advanced to assault their walls. Hereupon, the Chians who were among his forces, having of old had a friendship for the people of Phaselis, on one side endeavoured to pacify Cimon, and on the other addressed themselves to the townsmen, by letters fastened to arrows which they shot over the walls. At length they reconciled the two parties; the conditions were that the Phaselites should pay down ten talents, and should follow Cimon's standard against the barbarians.

Ephorus says, Tithraustes commanded the king's fleet, and Pherendates his land forces; but Callisthenes will have it, that Ariomandes the son of Gobryas was at the head of the Persians. He tells us farther, that he lay at anchor in the river Eurymedon, and did yet not chuse to come to an engagement with
the

the Greeks, because he expected a reinforcement of eighty Phoenician ships from Cyprus. On the other hand, Cimon wanted to prevent that junction, and therefore sailed with a resolution to compel the Persians to fight, if they declined it. To avoid it, they pushed up the river. But when Cimon came up, they attempted to make head against him, with six hundred ships, according to Phanodemus, or, as Ephorus writes, with three hundred and fifty. They performed, however, nothing worthy of such a fleet, but presently made for land. The foremost got on shore, and escaped to the army which was drawn up hard by. The Greeks laid hold on the rest, and handled them very roughly, as well as their ships. A certain proof that the Persian fleet was very numerous is, that though many in all probability got away, and many others were destroyed, yet the Athenians took no less than two hundred vessels.

The barbarian land-forces advanced close to the sea: but it appeared to Cimon an arduous undertaking to make good his landing by dint of sword, and with his troops, who were fatigued with the late action, to engage those that were quite fresh and many times their number. Notwithstanding this, he saw the courage and spirits of his men elevated with their late victory, and that they were very desirous to be led against the enemy. He therefore disembarked his heavy-armed infantry, yet warm from the late action. They rushed forward with loud shouts, and the Persians stood and received them with a good countenance. A sharp conflict ensued, in which the bravest and most distinguished among the Athenians were slain. At last with much difficulty the barbarians were put to the rout: many were killed, and many others taken, together with their pavilions full of all manner of rich spoil.

Thus Cimon, like an excellent champion, won two prizes in one day, and by these two actions outdid the victory of Salamis at sea, and of Plataeae at land.

land. He added, however, a new trophy to his victories. Upon intelligence that the eighty Phœnician galleys, which were not in the battle, were arrived at Hydrus *, he steered that way as fast as possible. They had not received any certain account of the forces to whose assistance they were going; and, as this suspense much intimidated them, they were easily defeated, with the loss of all their ships and most of their men.

These events so humbled the king of Persia, that he came into that famous peace, which limited him to the distance of a day's journey † on horseback from the Grecian sea; and by which he engaged that none of his galleys or other ships of war should ever come within the Cyanean and Chelidonian isles. Callisthenes, indeed, denies that the king agreed to these conditions; but he allows that his subsequent behaviour was equivalent to such an agreement. For his fears consequent upon that defeat, made him retire so far from Greece, that Pericles with fifty ships, and Ephialtes with no more than thirty, sailed beyond the Chelidonian rocks, without meeting with any fleet of the barbarians. However, in the collection of Athenian decrees made by Craterus, there is a copy of the articles of this peace, which are in substance the same as we have related them. We are told also, that the Athenians built an altar to peace on this occasion, and that they paid particular honours to Callias who negotiated the treaty. So much was raised from the sale of the spoils, that beside what was reserved for other occasions, the people had money enough to

* As no such place as Hydrus is to be found, Lubinus thinks we should read Sydra, which was a maritime town of Cilicia. Dacier proposes to read Hydrussa, which was one of the Cyclades. But, perhaps, Hydrus is only a corruption of Cyprus; for Polyænus (l. i.) tells us, Cimon sailed thither immediately after his twofold victory. And he adds, that he went disguised in a Persian dress, which must be with a view to take in the Phœnician galleys.

† Four hundred furlongs.

build the wall on the south side of the citadel. Nay, such was the treasure this expedition afforded, that by it were laid the foundations of the long walls called Legs; they were not finished indeed till some time after. And as the place where they were to be erected was marshy and full of water, Cimon at his own expence had the bottom secured by ramming down large stones and binding them with gravel. He, too, first adorned the city with those elegant and noble places for exercise and disputation, which a little after came to be so much admired. He planted the Forum with plane-trees; and whereas the Academy before was a dry and unsightly plat, he brought water to it, and sheltered it with groves, so that it abounded with clean alleys and shady walks.

By this time the Persians refused to evacuate the Chersonesus, and, instead of that, called down the Thracians to their assistance. Cimon set out against them from Athens with a very few galleys, and as they looked upon him with contempt on that account, he attacked them, and with four ships only took thirteen of theirs. Thus he expelled the Persians, and beat the Thracians too; by which success he reduced the whole Chersonesus to the obedience of Athens. After this, he defeated at sea the Thasians who had revolted from the Athenians, took three-and-thirty of their ships, and stormed their town. The gold-mines which were in the neighbouring continent, he secured to his countrymen, together with the whole Thasian territory.

From thence there was an easy opening to invade Macedonia, and possibly to conquer great part of it; but as he neglected the opportunity, it was thought to be owing to the presents with king Alexander made him. His enemies, therefore, impeached him for it, and brought him to his trial. In his defence he thus addressed his judges—"I have no connection with rich Ionians or Thessalians, whom other generals have applied to, in hopes of receiving compli-

“ments and treasures from them. My attachment
 “is to the Macedonians*, whose frugality and so-
 “briety I honour and imitate; things preferable with
 “me to all the wealth in the world. I love indeed
 “to enrich my country at the expence of its ene-
 “mies.” Stefimbrotus, who mentions this trial, says
 Elpinice waited on Pericles at his own house, to in-
 treat that he would behave with some lenity to her
 brother: for Pericles was the most vehement accuser
 he had. At present, he only said, “You are old,
 “Elpinice, much too old to transact such business as
 “this.” However, when the cause came on, he was
 favourable enough to Cimon, and rose up only once
 to speak during the whole impeachment, and then
 he did it in a slight manner. Cimon therefore was
 honourably acquitted.

As to the rest of his administration, he opposed and
 restrained the people who were invading the province
 of the nobility, and wanted to appropriate the direc-
 tion of every thing to themselves. But when he was
 gone out upon a new expedition, they broke out again,
 and overturning the constitution and most sacred
 customs of their country, at the instigation of Ephialtes,
 they took from the council of Areopagus those
 causes that used to come before it, and left it the cog-
 nizance of but very few. Thus, by bringing all mat-
 ters before themselves, they made the government a
 perfect democracy. And this they did with the con-
 currence of Pericles, who by this time was grown
 very powerful, and had espoused their party. It was
 with great indignation that Cimon found, at his re-
 turn, the dignity of that high court insulted; and he

* The manuscripts in general have Lacedaemonians; and that
 is probably the true reading. For Cimon is well known to have
 had a strong attachment to that people. Besides, the Macedonians
 were not a sober people. As to what some object, that it is strange
 he should make no mention of the Macedonians, when he was
 accused of being bribed by them: the answer is easy, we are not
 certain that Plutarch has given us all Cimon's defence.

set himself to restore its jurisdiction, and to revive such an aristocracy as had obtained under Clifthenes. Upon this, his adversaries raised a great clamour, and exasperated the people against him, not forgetting those stories about his sister, and his own attachment to the Lacedaemonians. Hence those verses of Eupolis about Cimon —

*He's not a villain, but a debauchee,
Whose careless heart is lost on wine and women.
The time has been, he slept in Lacedaemon,
And left poor Elpinice here alone.*

But if with all his negligence and love of wine, he took so many cities, and gained so many victories, it is plain that if he had been a sober man and attentive to business, none of the Greeks either before or after him could have exceeded him in great and glorious actions.

From his first setting out in life, he had an attachment to the Lacedaemonians. According to Stefimbrotus, he called one of the twins he had by a Clitonia woman, Lacedaemonius, and the other Eleus; and Pericles often took occasion to reproach them with their mean descent by the mother's side. But Diodorus the geographer writes, that he had both these sons, and a third named Theffalus, by Isodice, daughter to Euryptolemus the son of Megacles.

The Spartans contributed not a little to the promotion of Cimon. Being declared enemies to Themistocles, they much rather chose to adhere to Cimon, though but a young man at the head of affairs in Athens. The Athenians too at first saw this with pleasure, because they reaped great advantages from the regard which the Spartans had for Cimon. When they began to take the lead among the allies, and were gaining the chief direction of all the business of the league, it was no uneasiness to them to see the honour and esteem he was held in. Indeed, Cimon was the

man they pitched upon for transacting that business, on account of his humane behaviour to the allies, and his interest with the Lacedaemonians. But when they were become great and powerful, it gave them pain to see Cimon still adoring the Spartans. For he was always magnifying that people at their expence; and particularly, as Stefimbrotus tells us, when he had any fault to find with them, he used to say, "the Lacedaemonians would not have done so." On this account his countrymen began to envy and to hate him.

They had, however, a still heavier complaint against him, which took its rise as follows. In the fourth year of the reign of Archidamus the son of Zeuxidamus, there happened the greatest earthquake at Sparta that ever was heard of. The ground in many parts of Laconia was cleft asunder: Mount Taygetus felt the shock, and its ridges were torn off; the whole city was dismantled, except five houses. The young men and boys were exercising in the Portico, and it is said that a little before the earthquake a hare crossed the place, upon which the young men, naked and anointed as they were, ran out in sport after it. The building fell upon the boys that remained, and destroyed them all together. Their monument is still called, from that event, Sismatia.

Archidamus, amidst the present danger, perceived another that was likely to ensue, and, as he saw the people busy in endeavouring to save their most valuable moveables, he ordered the trumpets to give the alarm, as if some enemy were ready to fall upon them, that they might repair to him immediately with their weapons in their hands. This was the only thing which at that crisis saved Sparta. For the Helots flocked together on all sides from the fields to dispatch such as had escaped the earthquake; but finding them armed and in good order, they returned to their villages, and declared open war. At
the

the same time they persuaded some of their neighbours, among whom were the Messenians, to join them against Sparta.

In this great distress the Lacedaemonians sent Peracles to Athens, to beg for succours. Aristophanes*, in his comic way, says, "there was an extraordinary contrast between his pale face and his red robe, as he sat as a suppliant at the altars, and asked us for troops." Ephialtes strongly opposed, and protested against giving any assistance to re-establish a city which was rival to their own, insisting that they ought rather to suffer the pride of Sparta to be trodden under foot. Cimon, however, as Critias tells us, preferred the relief of Sparta to the enlargement of the Athenian power, and persuaded the people to march with a great army to its aid. Ion mentions the words which had the most effect upon them: he desired them, it seems, "not to suffer Greece to be maimed, nor to deprive their own city of its companion."

When he returned from assisting the Lacedaemonians, he marched with his army through Corinth. Lachartus complained in high terms of his bringing in his troops without permission from the citizens: "For," said he, "when we knock at another man's door, we do not enter without leave from the master." "But you, Lachartus," answered Cimon, "did not knock at the gates of Cleone and Megara, but broke them in pieces, and forced your way in, upon this principle, that nothing should be shut against the strong." With this boldness and propriety too, did he speak to the Corinthian, and then pursued his march.

After this, the Spartans called in the Athenians a second time against the Messenians and Helots in Ithome†. But when they arrived, they were more afraid of their spirit of enterprise than of the

* Lyfistrata, l. 1140.

† The Spartans were not skilled in sieges.

enemy, and therefore, of all their allies, sent only them back again, as persons suspected of some dishonourable design. They returned full of resentment* of course, and now openly declared themselves against the partizans of the Lacedaemonians, and particularly against Cimon. In consequence of this, upon a slight pretence, they banished him for ten years, which is the term the ostracism extends to.

In the mean time, the Lacedaemonians, in their return from an expedition in which they had delivered Delphi from the Phocians encamped at Tanagra. The Athenians came to give them battle. On this occasion, Cimon appeared in arms among those of his own tribe, which was that of Oeneis, to fight for his country against the Lacedaemonians. When the council of five hundred heard of it, they were afraid that his enemies would raise a clamour against him, as if he was come only to throw things into confusion, and to bring the Lacedaemonians into Athens, and therefore forbade the generals to receive him. Cimon, upon this, retired, after he had desired Euthippus the Anaphlystian, and the rest of his friends, who were most censured as partizans of Sparta, to exert themselves gloriously against the enemy, and by their behaviour to wipe off the aspersion.

These brave men, in number about a hundred, took Cimon's armour (as a sacred pledge) into the midst of their little band, formed themselves into a close body, and fought till they all fell with the greatest ardour imaginable. The Athenians regretted them exceedingly, and repented of the unjust censures they had fixed upon them. Their resentment against Cimon, too, soon abated, partly from the remembrance of his past services, and partly from the difficulties they lay under at the present juncture. They were beaten in the great battle fought at Ta-

* The Athenians, in resentment of this affront, broke the alliance with Sparta, and joined in confederacy with the Argives.

THUCYD. l. i.
nagra,

nagra, and they expected another army would come against them from Peloponnesus the next spring. Hence it was, that they recalled Cimon from banishment, and Pericles himself was the first to propose it. With so much candour were differences managed then, so moderate the resentments of men, and so easily laid down, where the public good required it! Ambition itself, the strongest of all passions, yielded to the interests and necessities of their country!

Cimon soon after his return put an end to the war, and reconciled the two cities. After the peace was made, he saw the Athenians could not sit down quietly, but still wanted to be in motion, and to aggrandise themselves by new expeditions. To prevent their exciting farther troubles in Greece, and giving a handle for intestine wars, and heavy complaints of the allies against Athens, on account of their formidable fleets traversing the seas about the islands and round Peloponnesus, he fitted out a fleet of two hundred sail, to carry war again into Egypt* and Cyprus. This he thought would answer two intentions;

* The history of the first expedition is this. While Cimon was employed in his enterprize against Cyprus, Inarus king of Lybia, having brought the greatest part of Lower Egypt to revolt from Artaxerxes, called in the Athenians to assist him to complete his conquest. Hereupon the Athenians quitted Cyprus, and sailed into Egypt. They made themselves masters of the Nile, and attacking Memphis, seized two of the outworks, and attempted the third, called the *white wall*. But the expedition proved very unfortunate. Artaxerxes sent Megabyzus with a powerful army into Egypt. He defeated the rebels and the Lybians their associates; drove the Greeks from Memphis, shut them up in the island of Protopitis eighteen months, and at last forced them to surrender. They almost all perished in that war, which lasted six years. Inarus, in violation of the public faith, was crucified.

The second expedition was undertaken a few years after, and was not more successful. The Athenians went against Cyprus with two hundred gallies. While they were besieging Citium there, Amyrtaeus the Saite applied to them for succours in Egypt, and Cimon sent him sixty of his gallies. Some say he went with them himself; others, that he continued before Citium. But nothing
of

tions; it would accustom the Athenians to conflicts with the barbarians, and it would improve their substance in an honourable manner, by bringing the rich spoils of their natural enemies into Greece.

When all was now ready, and the army on the point of embarking, Cimon had this dream. An angry bitch seemed to bay at him, and, something between barking and a human voice, to utter these words—*Come on; I and my whelps with pleasure shall receive thee.* Though the dream was hard to interpret, Astyphilus the Posidonian, a great diviner, and friend of Cimon's, told him it signified his death. He argued thus; a dog is an enemy to the man he barks at; and no one can give his enemy greater pleasure than by his death. The mixture of the voice pointed out that the enemy was a Mede, for the armies of the Medes are composed of Greeks and barbarians. After this dream, he had another sign in sacrificing to Bacchus. When the priest had killed the victim, a swarm of ants took up the clot-
ted blood by little and little, and laid it upon Cimon's great toe. This they did for some time without any one's taking notice of it: at last Cimon himself observed it, and at the same instant the soothsayer came and shewed him the liver without a head.

The expedition, however, could not now be put off, and therefore he set sail. He sent sixty of his galleys against Egypt, and with the rest made for the Asiatic coast, where he defeated the king's fleet consisting of Phoenician and Cilician ships, made himself master of the cities in that circuit, and watched his opportunity to penetrate into Egypt. Every thing was great in the designs he formed. He

of moment was transacted at this time to the prejudice of the Persians in Egypt. However, in the tenth year of Darius, Nothus Amyrtaeus issued from the fens, and being joined by all the Egyptians, drove the Persians out of the kingdom, and became king of the whole country.

THUCYD. l. ii. DIOD. SIC. l. xi.
thought

thought of nothing less than overturning the whole Persian empire; and the rather because he was informed that Themistocles was in great reputation and power with the barbarians, and had promised the king to take the conduct of the Grecian war, whenever he entered upon it. But Themistocles, they tell us, in despair of managing it to any advantage, and of getting the better of the good fortune and valour of Cimon, fell by his own hand.

When Cimon had formed these great projects, as a first step towards them, he cast anchor before Cyprus. From thence he sent persons in whom he could confide, with a private question to the oracle of Jupiter Ammon; for their errand was entirely unknown. Nor did the deity return them any answer, but immediately upon their arrival ordered them to return, "because Cimon," said he, "is already with me." The messengers, upon this, took the road to the sea, and when they reached the Grecian camp, which was then on the coasts of Egypt, they found that Cimon was dead. They then enquired what day he died, and comparing it with the time the oracle was delivered, they perceived that his departure was enigmatically pointed at in the expression "that he was already with the gods."

According to most authors, he died a natural death during the siege of Citium; but some say, he died of a wound he received in an engagement with the barbarians.

The last advice he gave those about him, was to sail away immediately, and to conceal his death. Accordingly, before the enemy or their allies knew the real state of the case, they returned in safety, by the generalship of Cimon exercised, as Phanodemus says, thirty days after his death.

After he was gone, there was not one Grecian general who did any thing considerable against the barbarians. The leading orators were little better than incen-

incendiaries, who set the Greeks one against another, and involved them in intestine wars; nor was there any healing hand to interpose. Thus the king's affairs had time to recover themselves, and inexpressible ruin was brought upon the powers of Greece. Long after this, indeed, Agesilaus carried his arms into Asia, and renewed the war a while against the king's lieutenants on the coast: but he was so soon recalled by the seditions and tumults which broke out afresh in Greece, that he could do nothing extraordinary. The Persian tax-gatherers were then left amidst the cities in alliance and friendship with the Greeks; whereas, while Cimon had the command, not a single collector was seen, nor so much as a horseman appeared, within four hundred furlongs from the sea-coast.

That his remains were brought to Attica, his monument there is a sufficient proof, for it still bears the title of Cimonia. Nevertheless the people of Citium have a tomb of Cimon, which they hold in great veneration, as Nausicrates the orator informs us; the gods having ordered them in a certain famine not to disregard his *manes*, but to honour and worship him as a superior being. Such was this Grecian general.

L U C U L L U S.

TH E grandfather of Lucullus was a man of consular dignity; Metellus surnamed Numidicus was his uncle by the mother's side. His father was found guilty of embezzling the public money, and his mother Caecilia had but an indifferent reputation for chastity. As for Lucullus himself, while he was but a youth, before he solicited any public charge or attempted to gain a share in the administration, he made his first appearance in impeaching Servilius the augur, who had been his father's accuser. As he had caught Servilius in some act of injustice in the execution of his office, all the world commended the prosecution, and talked of it as an indication of extraordinary spirit. Indeed, where there was no injury to revenge, the Romans considered the business of impeachments as a generous pursuit, and they chose to have their young men fasten upon criminals, like so many well-bred hounds upon their prey.

The cause was argued with so much vehemence, that they came to blows, and several were wounded and some killed: in the end, however, Servilius was
ac-

acquitted. But though Lucullus lost his cause, he had great command both of the Greek and Latin tongues; infomuch that Sylla dedicated his Commentaries to him, as a person who could reduce the acts and incidents to much better order, and compose a more agreeable history of them than himself. For his eloquence was not only occasional, or exerted when necessity called for it, like that of other orators who beat about him in the Forum,

As sports the vaulting Tunny in the main,

But when they are out of it,

Are dry, inelegant, and dead——

He had applied himself to the sciences called *liberal*, and was deep in the study of *humanity* from his youth; and in his age he withdrew from public labours, of which he long had a great share, to repose himself in the bosom of philosophy, and to enjoy the speculations she suggested; bidding a timely adieu to ambition after his difference with Pompey. To what we have said of his ingenuity and skill in languages, the following story may be added. While he was but a youth, as he was jesting one day with Hortensius the orator and Sisenna the historian, he undertook to write a short history of the Marfi, either in Greek or Latin verse, as the lot should fall. They took him at his word, and, according to the lot, it was to be in Greek. That history of his is still extant.

Among the many proofs of his affection for his brother Marcus, the Romans speak most of the first. Though he was much older than Marcus, he would not accept of any office without him, but waited his time. This was so agreeable to the people, that in his absence they created him aedile along with his brother.

Though

Though he was a stripling at the time of the Marfan war, there appeared many instances of his courage and understanding. But Sylla's attachment to him was principally owing to his constancy and mildness. On this account he made use of his services from first to last in his most important affairs. Among other things, he gave him the direction of the mint. It was he who coined most of Sylla's money in Peloponnesus during the Mithridatic war. From him it was called Lucullia; and it continued to be chiefly in use for the occasions of the army, for the goodness of it made it pass with ease.

Some time after this, Sylla engaged in the siege of Athens; and though he was victorious by land, the superiority of the enemy at sea straitened him for provisions. For this reason he dispatched Lucullus into Egypt and Lybia, to procure him a supply of ships. It was then the depth of winter; yet he scrupled not to sail with three small Greek brigantines and as many small Rhodian galleys, which were to meet strong seas, and a number of the enemy's ships that kept watch on all sides, because their strength lay there. In spite of this opposition he reached Crete, and brought it over to Sylla's interest.

From thence he passed to Cyrene, where he delivered the people from the tyrants and civil wars with which they had been harassed, and re-established their constitution. In this he availed himself of a saying of Plato, who, when he was desired to give them a body of laws, and to settle their government upon rational principles, gave them this oracular answer, "It is very difficult to give laws to so prosperous a people." In fact nothing is harder to govern than man when fortune smiles, nor any thing more tractable than he, when calamity lays her hands upon him. Hence it was, that Lucullus found the Cyrenians so pliant and submissive to his regulations.

From Cyrene he sailed to Egypt, but was attacked by pirates on his way, and lost most of the vessels
he

he had collected. He himself escaped, and entered the port of Alexandria in a magnificent manner, being conducted in by the whole Egyptian fleet set off to the best advantage, as it used to be when it attended the king in person. Ptolemy*, who was but a youth, received him with all demonstrations of respect, and even lodged and provided him a table in his own palace; an honour which had not been granted before to any foreign commander. Nor was the allowance for his expences the same which others had, but four times as much. Lucullus, however, took no more than was absolute necessary, and refused the king's presents, though he was offered no less than the value of eighty talents. It is said, he neither visited Memphis, nor any other of the celebrated wonders of Egypt; thinking it rather the business of a person who had time, and only travels for pleasure, than of him who had left his general engaged in a siege, and encamped before the enemy's fortifications.

Ptolemy refused to enter into alliance with Sylla, for fear of bringing war upon himself; but he gave Lucullus a convoy to escort him to Cyprus, embraced him at parting, and respectfully offered him a rich emerald set in gold. Lucullus at first declined it, but upon the king's shewing him his own picture engraved on it, he was afraid to refuse it, lest he should be thought to go away with hostile intentions, and in consequence have some fatal scheme formed against him at sea.

In his return he collected a number of ships from the maritime towns, excepting those that had given shelter and protection to pirates, and with this fleet he

* Palmerius takes this for Ptolemy Auletes; but Auletes was not king till the year before Christ sixty-five. It must, therefore, have been Ptolemy Lathyrus. For Sylla concluded the peace with Mithridates in the year before Christ eighty-two.

passed over to Cyprus. There he found that the enemy's ships lay in wait for him under some point of land; and therefore he laid up his fleet, and wrote to the cities to provide him quarters and all necessaries, as if he intended to pass the winter there. But as soon as the wind served, he immediately launched again, and proceeded on his voyage, lowering his sails in the day-time, and hoisting them again when it grew dark; by which stratagem he got safe to Rhodes. There he got a fresh supply of ships, and found means to persuade the people of Cos and Cnides to quit Mithridates, and join him against the Samians. With his own forces he drove the king's troops out of Chios; took Epigonus the Colophonian tyrant, prisoner, and set the people free.

At this time Mithridates was forced to abandon Pergamus, and had retired to Pitana. As Fimbria shut him up by land, he cast his eyes upon the sea, and in despair of facing in the field that bold and victorious officer, collected his ships from all quarters. Fimbria saw this, but was sensible of his want of naval strength, and therefore sent to intreat Lucullus to come with his fleet, and assist him in taking a king who was the most warlike and virulent enemy the Romans had. "Let not Mithridates," said he, "the glorious prize which has been sought in so many labours and conflicts, escape; as he is fallen into the hands of the Romans, and is already in their net. When he is taken, who will have a greater share in the honour than he who stops his flight, and catches him as he goes? If I shut him up by land, and you do the same by sea, the palm will be all our own. What value will Rome then set upon the actions of Sylla at Orchomenus and Chaeronea, though now so much extolled?"

There was nothing absurd in the proposal. Every body saw, that if Lucullus, who was at no great distance, had brought up his fleet, and blocked up

the harbour, the war would have been at an end, and they would all have been delivered from infinite calamities. But whether it was that he preferred his fidelity as Sylla's lieutenant, to his own interest and that of the public; whether he abhorred Fimbria as a villain whose ambition had lately led him to murder his general and his friend; or whether by some over-ruling influence of fortune he reserved Mithridates for his own antagonist, he absolutely rejected the proposal. He suffered him to get out of the harbour, and to laugh at Fimbria's land-forces.

After this, he had the honour of beating the king's fleet twice. The first time was at Lectum a promontory of Troas; the second at Tenedos, where he saw Neoptolemus at anchor with a more considerable force. Upon this, Lucullus advanced before the rest of his ships, in a Rhodian galley of five banks of oars, commanded by Demagoras, a man very faithful to the Romans, and experienced in naval affairs. Neoptolemus met him with great fury, and ordered the master of his ship to strike against that of Lucullus. But Demagoras fearing the weight of the admiral's galley, and the shock of its brazen beak, thought it dangerous to meet him a-head. He therefore tacked about, and received him a-stern, in which place he received no great damage, because the stroke was upon the lower parts of the ship, which were under water. In the mean time the rest of his fleet coming up, Lucullus ordered his own ship to tack again, fell upon the enemy, and, after many gallant actions, put them to flight, and pursued Neoptolemus for some time.

This done, he went to meet Sylla, who was going to cross the sea from the Chersonesus. Here he secured his passage, and helped to transport his army. When the peace* was agreed upon, Mithridates sailed

* This peace was concluded in the year of Rome six hundred and sixty-nine, eight years before the death of Sylla.

into the Euxine sea, and Sylla laid a fine upon Asia of twenty thousand talents. Lucullus was commissioned to collect the tax, and to coin the money ; and it was some consolation to the cities amidst the severity of Sylla, that Lucullus acted not only with the utmost justice, but with all the lenity that so difficult and odious a charge would admit of.

As the Mityleneans had openly revolted, he wanted to bring them to acknowledge their fault, and pay a moderate fine for having joined Marius's party. But, led by their ill genius, they continued obstinate. Upon this, he went against them with his fleet, beat them in a great battle, and shut them up within their walls. Some days after he had begun the siege, he had recourse to this stratagem : in open day he set sail towards Elea, but returned privately at night, and lay close near the city. The Mityleneans then sallying out in a bold and disorderly manner to plunder his camp, which they thought he had abandoned, he fell upon them, took most of them prisoners, and killed five hundred who stood upon their defence. Here he got six thousand slaves, and an immense quantity of other spoil.

He had no hand in the various and unspeakable evils which Sylla and Marius brought upon Italy : For by the favour of Providence he was engaged in the affairs of Asia. Yet none of Sylla's friends had greater interest with him. Sylla, as we have said, out of particular regard, dedicated his Commentaries to him ; and, passing Pompey by, in his last will constituted him guardian to his son. This seems to have first occasioned those differences, and that jealousy which subsisted between Pompey and Lucullus ; both young men and full of ardour in the pursuit of glory.

A little after the death of Sylla, Lucullus was chosen consul along with Marcus Cotta, about the hundred and seventy-sixth olympiad. At this time many proposed to renew the war with Mithridates, and Cot-

ta himself said, "the fire was not extinguished, it only slept in embers." Lucullus, therefore, was much concerned at having the Cisalpine Gaul allotted as his province, which promised him no opportunity to distinguish himself. But the honour Pompey had acquired in Spain, gave him most trouble; because that general's superior reputation, he clearly saw, after the Spanish war was ended, would entitle him to the command against Mithridates. Hence it was, that when Pompey applied for money, and informed the government, that if he was not supplied, he must leave Spain and Sertorius, and bring his forces back to Italy, Lucullus readily exerted himself to procure the supplies, and to prevent his returning upon any pretext whatever during his consulship. He knew that every measure at home would be under Pompey's direction, if he came with such an army. For, at this very time, the tribune Cethegus, who had the lead, because he consulted nothing but the humour of the people, was at enmity with Lucullus, on account of his detesting that tribune's life, polluted as it was with infamous amours, insolence, and every species of profligacy. Against this man he declared open war. Lucius Quintius, another tribune, wanted to annul the acts of Sylla, and to disorder the whole face of affairs, which was now tolerably composed. But Lucullus, by private representations and public remonstrances, drew him from his purpose, and restrained his ambition. Thus, in the most polite and salutary way imaginable, he destroyed the seeds of a very dangerous disease.

About this time news was brought of the death of Octavius governor of Cilicia. There were many competitors for that province, and they all paid their court to Cethegus as the person most likely to procure it for them. Lucullus set no great value upon that government; but, as it was near Cappadocia, he concluded, if he could obtain it, that the Romans would not think of employing any other general against Mithridates.

Mithridates. For this reason he exerted all his art to secure the province to himself. At last he was necessitated, against the bent of his disposition, to give into a measure which was indirect and illiberal, but very conducive to his purpose.

There was a woman then in Rome named Praecia, famed for beauty and enchanting wit, but in other respects no better than a common prostitute. By applying her interest with those who frequented her house, and were fond of her company, to serve her friends in the administration and in other affairs, she added to her other accomplishments the reputation of being a useful friend and a woman of business. This exalted her not a little. But when she had captivated Cethegus, who was then in the height of his glory, and carried all before him in Rome, the whole power fell into her hands. Nothing was done without the favour of Cethegus, nor by Cethegus, without the consent of Praecia. To her Lucullus applied by presents and the most insinuating compliments; nor could any thing have been more acceptable to a vain and pompous woman, than to see herself flattered and courted by such a man as Lucullus. The consequence was, that Cethegus immediately espoused his cause, and solicited for him the province of Cilicia. When he had gained this, he had no farther need either of Praecia or Cethegus. All came into his interest, and with one voice gave him the command in the Mithridatic war. He indeed could not but be considered as the fittest person for that charge, because Pompey was engaged with Sertorius, and Metellus had given up his pretensions on account of his great age; and these were the only persons who could stand in competition for it with Lucullus. However, his colleague, Cotta, by much application, prevailed upon the senate, to send him with a fleet to guard the Propontis, and to protect Bithynia.

Lucullus, with a legion now levied in Italy, passed over into Asia, where he found the rest of the troops that were to compose his army. These had all been long entirely corrupted by luxury and avarice; and that part of them called Fimbrians, was more intractable than the rest, on account of their having been under no command. At the instigation of Fimbria, they had killed Flaccus, who was consul and their general too, and had betrayed Fimbria himself to Sylla; and they were still mutinous and lawless men, though in other respects brave, hardy, and experienced soldiers. Nevertheless Lucullus, in a little time subdued the seditious spirit of these men, and corrected the faults of the rest; so that now they first found a real commander, whereas before they had been brought to serve by indulgence and every promise of pleasure.

The affairs of the enemy were in this posture. Mithridates, like a sophistical warrior, had formerly met the Romans in a vain and ostentatious manner, with forces that were showy and pompous indeed, but of little use. Baffled and disgraced in his attempt, he grew wiser, and therefore in this second war he provided troops that were capable of real service. He retrenched that mixed multitude of nations, and those bravados that were issued from his camp in a barbarous variety of language, together with the rich arms adorned with gold and precious stones, which he now considered rather as the spoils of the conqueror, than as adding any vigour to the men that wore them. Instead of this, he armed them with swords in the Roman fashion, and with large and heavy shields; and his cavalry he provided with horses rather well-trained than gaily accoutred. His infantry consisted of a hundred and twenty thousand, and his cavalry of sixteen thousand, besides armed chariots to the number of a hundred. His navy was not equipped, as before, with gilded pavilions, baths and delicious apartments for the women, but with all manner

manner of weapons offensive and defensive, and money to pay the troops.

In this respectable form he invaded Bithynia, where the cities received him with pleasure; and not only that country, but all Asia returned to its former distempered inclinations, by reason of the intolerable evils that the Roman usurers and tax-gatherers had brought upon them. These Lucullus afterwards drove away, like so many harpies which robbed the poor inhabitants of their food. At present he was satisfied with reprimanding them, and bringing them to exercise their office with more moderation; by which means he kept the Asiatics from revolting, when their inclination was almost universally that way.

While Lucullus was employed in these matters, Cotta thinking he had found his opportunity, prepared to give Mithridates battle. And as he had accounts from many hands, that Lucullus was coming up, and was already encamped in Phrygia, he did every thing to expedite the engagement in order to prevent Lucullus from having any share in the triumph, which he believed was now all his own. He was defeated, however, both by sea and land, with the loss of sixty ships and all their crews, as well as four thousand land-forces; after which he was shut up in Chalcedon, and had no resource except in the assistance of Lucullus. Lucullus was advised, notwithstanding, to take no notice of Cotta, but to march forward into the kingdom of Mithridates which he would find in a defenceless state. On this occasion the soldiers were loudest in their complaints. They represented that Cotta had by his rash counsels, not only ruined himself and his own men, but done them too great prejudice; since, had it not been for his error, they might have conquered without loss. But Lucullus, in a set speech upon this subject, told them, "He had rather deliver one Roman out of the enemy's hand, than take all the enemy had."

And when Archelaus, who formerly had commanded the king's forces in Boeotia, but now was come over to the Romans and fought for them, asserted, That if Lucullus would but once make his appearance in Pontus, all would immediately fall before him, he said, "He would not act in a more cowardly manner than hunters, nor pass the wild beasts by, and go to their empty dens." He had no sooner uttered these words, than he marched against Mithridates with thirty thousand foot, and two thousand five hundred horse.

When he got sight of the enemy, he was astonished at their numbers, and determined to avoid a battle and gain time. But Marius *, a Roman officer, whom Sertorius had sent to Mithridates out of Spain with some troops, advanced to meet Lucullus, and give him the challenge. Lucullus accepted it, and put his army in order of battle. The signal was just ready to be given, when without any visible alteration, there was a sudden explosion in the air, and a large luminous body was seen to fall between the two armies; its form was like that of a large tun, and its colour that of molten silver. Both sides were so affected with the phaenomenon, that they parted without striking a blow. This prodigy is said to have happened in Phrygia, at a place called Otryae.

Lucullus, concluding that no human supplies could be sufficient to maintain so many myriads as Mithridates had, for any length of time, especially in presence of an enemy, ordered one of the prisoners to be brought before him. The first question he put to him was, how many there were in his mess, and the second what provisions he had left in his tent. When he had this man's answer, he commanded him to withdraw; and then examined a second and a third in like manner. The next thing was to com-

* Appian calls him Varius.

pare the quantity of provisions which Mithridates had laid in, with the number of soldiers he had to support; by which he found that in three or four days they would be in want of bread-corn. This confirmed him in his design of gaining time; and he caused great plenty of provisions to be brought into his own camp, that in the midst of abundance he might watch the enemy's distress.

Notwithstanding this, Mithridates formed a design against the Cyziceniens, who were beaten * in the late battle near Chalcedon, and had lost three thousand men and ten ships. To deceive Lucullus, he decamped soon after supper, one dark, tempestuous night; and marched with so much expedition, that at break of day he got before the town, and posted himself upon mount Adraestia †. As soon as Lucullus perceived he was gone, he followed his steps; and without falling unawares upon the enemy in the obscurity of the night, as he might easily have done, he reached the place of his destination, and sat down at a village called Thraceia, the most commodious situation imaginable for guarding the roads, and cutting off the enemy's convoys.

He was now so sure of his aim, that he concealed it no longer from his men; but when they had entrenched themselves, and returned from their labour, called them together, and told them with great triumph, "in a few days he would gain them a victory which should not cost one drop of blood."

Mithridates had planted his troops in ten different posts about the city, and with his vessels blocked up the strait which parts it from the continent ‡, so that

* Along with Cotta.

† So called from a temple in the city consecrated by Adrastus to the goddess Nemesis, who from thence had the name of Adraestia.

‡ Strabo says, Cyzicus lies upon the Propontis, and is an island joined to the continent by two bridges; near which is a city of the same name, with two harbours capable of containing two hundred vessels.

STRAB. l. xii.

it was invested on all sides. The Cyziceniens were prepared to combat the greatest difficulties, and to suffer the last extremities in the Roman cause: but they knew not where Lucullus was, and were much concerned that they could get no account of him. Though his camp was visible enough, the enemy had the art to impose upon them. Pointing to the Romans who were posted on the heights, "Do you see that army," said they; "those are the Armenians and Medes, whom Tigranes has sent as a reinforcement to Mithridates." Surrounded with such an immense number of enemies, as they thought, and having no hope of relief but from the arrival of Lucullus, they were in the utmost consternation.

When Demonax, whom Archelaus found * means to send into the town, brought them news that Lucullus was arrived, at first they could hardly believe it, imagining he came only with a feigned story, to encourage them to bear up in their present distress. However, the same moment, a boy made his appearance who had been a prisoner among the enemy, and had just made his escape. Upon their asking him where Lucullus was, he laughed thinking them only in jest; but when he saw they were in earnest, he pointed with his finger to the Roman camp. This sufficiently revived their drooping spirits.

In the lake Dascylitis, near Cyzicus, there were vessels of a considerable size. Lucullus hauled up the largest of them, put it upon a carriage, and drew it down to the sea. Then he put on board it as many soldiers as it could contain, and ordered them to get into Cyzicus, which they effected in the night.

It seems too, that heaven, delighted with the valour of the Cyziceniens, supported them with several remarkable signs. The feast of Proserpine was come, when they were to sacrifice a black heifer to her; and as they had no living animal of that

* By the assistance of bladders he swam into the town.

FLORUS, l. iii.
kind,

kind, they made one of paste*, and were approaching the altar with it. The victim, bred for that purpose, pastured with the rest of their cattle on the other side the frith. On that very day she parted from the herd, swam along to the town, and presented herself before the altar. The same goddess appeared to Aristagoras, the public secretary, in a dream, and said, "Go and tell your fellow-citizens to take courage, for I shall bring the African piper against the trumpeter of Pontus."

While the Cyzicenians were wondering at this oracular expression, in the morning a strong wind blew, and the sea was in the utmost agitation. The king's machines erected against the walls, the wonderful work of Niconidus the Thessalian, by the noise and cracking first announced what was to come. Then a south wind incredibly violent arose, and in the short space of an hour broke all the engines to pieces, and destroyed the wooden tower which was an hundred cubits high. It is moreover related that Minerva was seen by many at Ilium in their sleep, all covered with sweat, and with part of her veil rent; and that she said, she was just come from assisting the people of Cyzicus. Nay, they shewed at Ilium a pillar which had an inscription to that purpose.

As long as Mithridates was deceived by his officers, and kept in ignorance of the famine that prevailed in the camp, he lamented his miscarriage in the siege. But when he came to be sensible of the extremity to which his soldiers were reduced, and that they were forced even to eat human flesh†, all his ambition

* The Pythagoreans, who thought it unlawful to kill any animal, seem to have been the first among the Greeks who offered the figures of animals in paste, myrrh, or some other composition. The poorer sort of Egyptians are said to have done the same from another principle.

† There is something extremely improbable in this. It does not appear that Mithridates was so totally blocked up by Lucullus as to

bition and spirit of contention died away. He found Lucullus did not make war in a theatrical ostentatious manner, but aimed his blows at his very heart, and left nothing unattempted to deprive him of provisions. He therefore seized his opportunity, while the Roman was attacking a certain fort, to send off almost all his cavalry and his beasts of burthen, as well as the least useful part of his infantry, into Bithynia.

When Lucullus was apprised of their departure, he retired during the night into his camp. Next morning there was a violent storm; nevertheless he began the pursuit with ten cohorts of foot, beside his cavalry. All the way he was greatly incommoded by the snow, and the cold was so piercing that several of his soldiers sunk under it, and were forced to stop. With the rest he overtook the enemy at the river Rhyndacus, and made such havock among them, that the women of Apollonia came out to plunder the convoys and to strip the slain.

The slain, as may well be imagined, were very numerous, and Lucullus made fifteen thousand prisoners; besides which, he took six thousand horses and an infinite number of beasts of burthen. And he made it his business to lead them all by the enemy's camp.

I cannot help wondering at Salust's saying, that this was the first time the Romans saw a camel*. How could he think that those who formerly under Scipio conquered Antiochus, and lately defeated Ar-

to reduce him to this extremity; and even had that been the case, it would certainly have been more eligible to have risked a battle, than to have submitted to the dreadful alternative here mentioned. But wherefore eat human flesh, when afterwards we are expressly told that they had beasts to send away? There is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as little foundation in history for this practice, as there is in nature.

* Livy expressly tells us, there were camels in Antiochus's army. "Before the cavalry were placed the chariots armed with scythes, and camels of that species called Dromedaries."

LIV. I. xxxvii. c. 40.

chelaus

chelaus at Orchomenus and Chaeronea, should be unacquainted with that animal?

Mithridates now resolved upon a speedy flight; and to amuse Lucullus with employment in another quarter, he sent his admiral Aristonicus to the Grecian sea. But just as he was on the point of sailing, he was betrayed to Lucullus, together with ten thousand pieces of gold, which he took with him to corrupt some part of the Roman forces. After this, Mithridates made his escape by sea, and left his generals to get off with his army the best manner they could. Lucullus coming up with them at the river Granicus, killed full twenty thousand, and made a prodigious number of prisoners. It is said that in this campaign the enemy lost near three hundred thousand men, reckoning the servants of the army as well as soldiers.

Lucullus immediately entered Cyzicum, where he was received with every testimony of joy and respect. After which, he went to the Hellespont, to collect ships to make up a fleet. On this occasion he touched at Troas, and slept there in the temple of Venus. The goddess, he dreamt, stood by him, and addressed him as follows,

*Dost thou then sleep, great monarch of the woods?
The fawns are rustling near thee.—*

Upon this he rose, and calling his friends together while it was yet dark, related to them the vision. He had hardly made an end, when messengers arrived from Ilium with an account that they had seen off the Grecian harbour * thirteen of the king's large galleys steering towards Lemnos. He went in pursuit of them without losing a moment, took them, and killed their admiral Isidorus. When this was done, he made all the sail he could after some others which were before. These lay at anchor by the island; and

* Plutarch means the harbour where the Grecians landed when they were going to the siege of Troy.

as soon as the officers perceived his approach, they hauled the ships ashore, and fighting from the decks, galled the Romans exceedingly. The Romans had no chance to surround them; nor could their galleys, which were kept by the waves in continual motion, make any impression upon those of the enemy which were on firm ground and stood immoveable. At last having with much difficulty found a landing-place, he put some of his troops on shore, who taking them in the rear, killed a number of them, and forced the rest to cut their cables and stand out to sea. In the confusion the vessels dashed one against another, or fell upon the beaks of those of Lucullus. The destruction consequently was great. Marius, the general sent by Sertorius, was among the prisoners. He had but one eye; and Lucullus, when he first set sail, gave his men strict charge not to kill any person with one eye; in order that he might be reserved for a death of greater torture and disgrace.

After this, he hastened to pursue Mithridates himself, whom he hoped to find in Bithynia blocked up by Voconius. He had sent this officer before with a fleet to Nicomedia, to prevent the king's escape. But Voconius had loitered in Samothrace about getting himself initiated in the mysteries* and celebrating festivals. Mithridates in the mean time had got out, and was making great efforts to reach Pontus before Lucullus could come to stop him. But a violent tempest overtook him, by which many of his vessels were dashed to pieces, and many sunk. The whole shore was covered with the wreck which the sea threw up for several days. As for the king himself, the ship in which he sailed was so large, that the pilots could not

* The mysteries of the Cabiri. The worship of these gods was probably brought from Phoenicia; for כביר Cabir in the language of that country signifies powerful. They were revered as the most tremendous of superior beings; the more so, because of the mysterious and awful solemnities of their worship. Some have pretended to give us account of their names, though they were locked up in the profoundest secrecy.

make land with it amidst such a terrible agitation of the waves, and it was by this time ready to founder with the water it had taken in. He therefore got into a shallop belonging to some pirates, and trusting his life to their hands, beyond all hope was brought safe to Heraclea in Pontus, after having passed through the most unspeakable dangers.

In this war Lucullus behaved to the senate of Rome with an honest pride, which had its success. They had decreed him three thousand talents to enable him to fit out a fleet. But he acquainted them by letters that he had no need of the money, and boasted that, without so much expence and such mighty preparations, he would drive Mithridates out of the sea with the ships the allies would give him. And he performed his promise by the assistance of a superior power. For the tempest, which ruined the Pontic fleet, is said to have been raised by the resentment of Diana of Priapus, for their plundering her temple and beating down her statue.

Lucullus was now advised by many of his officers to let the war sleep a while; but without regarding their opinion, he penetrated into the kingdom of Pontus, by way of Bithynia and Galatia. At first he found provisions so scarce, that he was forced to have thirty thousand Gauls follow him with each a measure * of wheat upon his shoulders. But as he proceeded farther in his march, and bore down all opposition, he came to such plenty, that an ox was sold for one drachma, and a slave for four. The rest of the booty was so little regarded, that some left it behind them, and others destroyed it; for, amidst such abundance, they could not find a purchaser. Having, in the excursions of their cavalry, laid waste all the country as far as Themiscyrae and about the river Thermodon, they complained that Lucullus took all the towns by capitulation, instead of storm, and gave not up one to the soldiers for plunder. "Now,"

* Medimnus,

said they, "you leave Amisus a rich and flourishing city, which might be easily taken, if you would assault it vigorously; and drag us after Mithridates into the wastes of Tibarene and Chaldaea."

Lucullus, however, not thinking they would break out into that rage which afterwards appeared, neglected their remonstrances. He took more pains to excuse himself to those who blamed his slow progress, and his losing time in reducing towns and villages of little consequence, while Mithridates was again gathering power. "This is the very thing," said he, "that I want, and aim at in all my operations, that Mithridates may get strength, and collect an army respectable enough, to make him stand an engagement, and not continue to fly before us. Do not you see what vast and boundless deserts lie behind him? Is not Caucasus with all its immense train of mountains at hand, sufficient to hide him and numberless other kings who want to avoid a battle? It is but a few days journey from the country of the * Cabiri into Armenia, where Tigranes, king of kings, is seated, surrounded with that power which has wrested Asia from the Parthians, which carries Grecian colonies into Media, subdues Syria and Palestine, cuts off the Seleucidae, and carries their wives and daughters into captivity. This prince is nearly allied to Mithridates; he is his son-in-law. Do you think he will disregard him, when he comes as a suppliant, and not take up arms in his cause? Why will you then be in such haste to drive Mithridates out of his dominions, and risque the bringing Tigranes upon us, who has long wanted a pretence for it? And surely he cannot find a more specious one, than that of succouring a father-in-law, and a king

* Hence it appears, as well as from a passage in Strabo, that there was a district on the borders of Phrygia called Cabiri. Indeed, the worship of those gods had prevailed in several parts of Asia, and they are supposed to have had homage paid them at Rome under the title of Divi Potes.

“ reduced to such extreme necessity. What need is
“ there then for us to ripen this affair, and to teach
“ Mithridates what he may not know, who are the
“ confederates he is to seek against us; or to drive
“ him, against his inclination and his notions of
“ honour, into the arms of Tigranes? Is it not better
“ to give him time to make preparations and regain
“ strength in his own territories, that we may have to
“ meet the Cholchians, the Tibarenians and Cappa-
“ docians, whom we have often beaten, rather than
“ the unknown forces of the Medes and the Ar-
“ menians?”

Agreeably to these sentiments Lucullus spent a great deal of time before Amisus, proceeding very slowly in the siege. After the winter was past, he left that charge to Murena, and marched against Mithridates, who was encamped on the plains of the Cabiri, with a resolution to wait for the Romans there. His army consisted of forty thousand foot and four thousand horse, which he had lately collected; and in these he placed the greatest confidence. Nay, he passed the river Lycus, and gave the Romans the challenge to meet him in the field. In consequence of this, the cavalry engaged, and the Romans were put to the rout. Pomponius, a man of some dignity, was wounded and taken. Though much indisposed with his wounds, he was brought before Mithridates, who asked him, “ Whether, if he saved his life, he
“ would become his friend?” “ On condition you
“ be reconciled to the Romans,” said he, “ I will:
“ but if not, I must remain your enemy.” The king, struck with admiration of his patriotism, did him no injury.

Lucullus was apprehensive of farther danger on the plain, on account of the enemy's superiority in horse, and yet he was loth to take to the mountains, which were at a considerable distance, as well as woody and difficult of ascent. While he was in this perplexity, some Greeks happened to be taken, who had hid themselves in a cave. Artemidorus, the eldest of
VOL. III. Y them,

them, undertook to conduct him to a post where he might encamp in the utmost security, and where there stood a castle which commanded the plain of the Cabiri. Lucullus gave credit to his report, and began his march in the night, after he had caused a number of fires to be lighted in his old camp. Having got safely through the narrow passes, he gained the heights, and in the morning appeared above the enemy's heads, in a situation where he might fight with advantage, when he chose it, and might not be compelled to it, if he had a mind to sit still.

At present neither Lucullus nor Mithridates was inclined to risque a battle: but some of the king's soldiers happening to pursue a deer, a party of Romans went out to intercept them. This brought on a sharp skirmish, numbers continually coming up on each side. At length the king's troops had the advantage.

The Romans, beholding from the camp the flight of their fellow-soldiers, were greatly disturbed, and ran to Lucullus, to intreat him to lead them out, and give the signal for battle. But he willing to shew them of how much importance in all dangerous conflicts the presence of an able general is, ordered them to stand still; and descending into the plain himself, seized the foremost of the fugitives, and commanded them to face about. They obeyed, and the rest rallying with them, they easily put the enemy to flight, and pursued them to their entrenchments. Lucullus, at his return, inflicted on the fugitives the usual punishment. He made them strip to their vests, take off their girdles, and then dig a trench twelve feet long; the rest of the troops all the while standing and looking on.

In the army of Mithridates there was a Dardarian grandee named Olthacus. The Dardarians are some of those barbarous people who live near the lake Maeotis. Olthacus was a man fit for every warlike attempt that required strength and courage, and in counsel

counsel and contrivance inferior to none. Beside these accomplishments, he was affable, easy and agreeable in the commerce of the world. He was always involved in some dispute, or jealousy at least, of the other great men of his country, who, like him, aimed at the chief authority in it: and to bring Mithridates into his interest, he undertook the daring enterprize, of killing Lucullus. Mithridates commended his design, and publickly gave him some affronts, to afford him a pretence for resentment. Olthacus laid hold on it, and rode off to Lucullus, who received him with pleasure. For his reputation was well known in the camp; and, upon trial, the Roman general found his presence of mind and his address so extraordinary, that he took him to his table and his council-board.

When the Dardarian thought he had found his opportunity, he ordered his servants to have his horse ready without the camp. It was now mid-day, and the soldiers were sitting in the sun or otherwise reposing themselves, when he went to the general's pavilion, expecting that none would pretend to hinder the admission of a man who was intimate with Lucullus, and who said he had business of importance to communicate. And he had certainly entered, if sleep which has been the ruin of many other generals, had not saved Lucullus. Menedemus, one of his chamberlains, was then in waiting, and he told Olthacus, "this was not a proper time to see Lucullus, because, after long watching and fatigue, he was now taking some rest." Olthacus did not take this denial, but said, "I must enter, whether you will or not, for I have great and necessary business to lay before him." Menedemus, incensed at his insolence, answered, "Nothing is more necessary than the preservation of Lucullus," and thrust him back with both hands. Olthacus, fearing his design was discovered, withdrew privately from the camp, took horse, and returned to Mithridates with-

out effecting any thing. Thus the crisis in other matters, as well as in medicine, either saves or destroys.

After this, Sornatius was sent out with ten cohorts to escort a convoy. Mithridates detached against him one of his officers named Menander. An engagement ensued, and the barbarians were routed with great loss. Another time, Lucullus dispatched Adrian with a considerable corps, to protect the party employed in collecting provisions and supplying his camp. Mithridates did not let them pass unnoticed, but sent Menemachus and Myron against them, with a strong body of cavalry and another of infantry. All these combatants, except two, the Romans put to the sword. Mithridates dissimulated his loss, pretending it was small, and entirely owing to the misconduct of the commanding officers. But when Adrian passed by his camp in great pomp, with many waggons loaded with provisions and rich spoils in his train, the king's spirits began to droop, and the most distressing terror fell upon his army. They determined, therefore, to quit that post.

The nobility about the king began to send off their baggage with all the privacy they could, but would not suffer others to do the same. The soldiers finding themselves jostled and thrust back in the gate-ways, were so much provoked at their treatment, that they turned upon them, fell to plundering the baggage, and killed several of them. Dorylaus, one of the generals, lost his life for nothing but a purple robe which he had on. Hermaeus, a priest, was trodden under foot at the gate. Mithridates himself, without any attendant or groom to assist him, got out of the camp amidst the crowd. Of all his royal stud there was not one horse left him; but at last Ptolemy the eunuch, seeing him carried along with the torrent, and happening to be on horseback, dismounted and gave him his. The Romans pressed hard upon him, and indeed came up time enough to have taken him.

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He was in fact almost in their hands; but their avarice saved him. The prey, which had been pursued through numberless conflicts and dangers, escaped, and the victorious Lucullus was robbed of the reward of his toils. The horse which the king rode, was almost overtaken, when a mule loaded with gold came between him and his pursuers, either by accident, or by the king's contrivance. The soldiers immediately began to rifle the load, and came to blows about the contents; which gave Mithridates time to get off. Nor was this the only disadvantage Lucullus experienced from their avarice. Callistratus, the king's secretary, was taken, and the Roman general had ordered him to be brought before him; but those who had the charge of it, perceiving he had five hundred crowns in his girdle, dispatched him for the money. Yet to such men as these he gave up the plunder of the enemy's camp.

After this, he took Cabira, and many other places of strength, in which he found much treasure. He likewise found in their prisons many Greeks, and several of the king's own relations, confined; and, as they had long thought themselves in the most desperate circumstances, the liberty which they gained by the favour of Lucullus, appeared to them not so much a deliverance, as a resurrection and new life. One of the king's sisters, named Nyssa, very happily for her, was of the number. The other sisters and wives of Mithridates, who seemed placed more remote from danger, and at a distance from war, all perished miserably: he sent the eunuch Bacchides to Phernacia, with orders to see them put to death.

Among the rest, were two of his sisters, Roxana, and Statira, who were about the age of forty, and still virgins; and two of his wives, both Ionians, Berenice of Chios, and Monime of Miletus. The latter was much celebrated among the Greeks. Though the king had tried every expedient to bring her to listen to a lawless passion, and made

her a present of fifteen thousand crowns at one time, she rejected all his solicitations till he agreed to marriage, sent her a diadem, and declared her queen. Before the last sad message, she had passed her time very unhappily, and looked with grief and indignation on that beauty, which instead of a husband had procured her an imperious master, and instead of the domestic comforts of marriage, a guard of barbarians. Banished far from Greece, she had lost the real blessings of life, and where she hoped for happiness, found nothing but a dream.

When Bacchides came, and informed those princesses they must die, but that they were at liberty to chuse the death most easy and agreeable to them, Monime snatching the diadem from her head, applied it to her neck, that it might do the fatal office. But it broke, and the princess said, "O cursed band! wouldst thou not, at least, serve me on this occasion." Then spitting upon it, she threw it from her, and stretched out her neck to Bacchides.

Berenice took poison, and, as her mother, who was present, begged a share of it, she granted her request. They both drank of it; and its force operated sufficiently upon the weaker body: but Berenice, not having taken a proper quantity, was long a dying. Bacchides therefore strangled her. Roxana, one of the unmarried sisters, after having vented the most bitter imprecations and reproaches against Mithridates, took poison. Statira, however, died without one unkind or ungenerous word. She rather commended her brother, when he must have his anxieties about his own life, for not forgetting them, but providing that they might die free and undishonoured. These events were very disagreeable to the native goodness and humanity of Lucullus.

He continued his pursuit of Mithridates as far as Talaura; where having learnt that he was fled four days before into Armenia to Tigranes, he turned back again. He subdued, however, the Chaldaeans
and

and Tibarenians, and reduced the Less Armenia, with the towns and castles. Then he sent Appius to Tigranes, to demand Mithridates; and in the mean time returned to Amisus, which his troops were still besieging. The length of the siege was owing to Callimachus who commanded in the town, and was an able engineer, skilled in every art of attack and defence. By this he gave the Romans much trouble, for which he suffered afterwards. Lucullus availed himself of a stratagem, against which he had not guarded. He made a sudden assault at the time when Callimachus used to draw off his men for refreshment. Thus he made himself master of some part of the wall; upon which, Callimachus, either envying the Romans the plunder of the place, or with a view to facilitate his own escape, set fire to the town, and quitted it. For no one paid any attention to those who fled by sea. The flames spread with great rapidity around the walls, and the soldiers prepared themselves to pillage the houses. Lucullus, in commiseration of a fine city thus sinking into ruin, endeavoured to assist it from without, and ordered his troops to extinguish the fire. But they paid no regard to him; they went on collecting the spoils, and clashing their arms; till he was forced to give up the plunder to them, in hopes of saving the city from the flames. It happened, however, quite otherwise. In rummaging every corner, with torches in their hands, they set fire to many of the houses themselves. So that when Lucullus entered the town next morning, he said to his friends, with tears in his eyes, "I have often admired the good fortune of Sylla, but never so much as I do this day. He desired to save Athens, and succeeded. I wished to imitate him on this occasion; but, instead of that, the gods have classed me with Mummius*."

Nevertheless, he endeavoured to restore the place, as far as its unhappy circumstances would permit.

* The Destroyer of Corinth.

A shower, which providentially fell about the time it was taken, extinguished the fire, and saved many of the buildings; and, during his stay, he rebuilt most of those that were destroyed. Such of the inhabitants as had fled he received with pleasure, and added to them a draught of other Greeks who were willing to settle there. At the same time, he gave them a territory of a hundred and twenty furlongs.

This city was a colony of Athenians, planted here at a time when their power was at the height, and they were masters of the sea. Hence it was, that those who fled from the tyranny of Aristion, retired to Amisus, and were admitted to the privilege of citizens; fortunately enough gaining abroad what they lost at home. The remainder of them, Lucullus now clothed in an honourable manner, gave each two hundred drachmas, and sent them back into their own country. Tyrannio, the grammarian, was of the number. Murena begged him of Lucullus, and afterwards enfranchised him; in which he acted ungenerously by his superior officer's present. Lucullus would not have been willing, that a man so honoured for his learning, should be first considered as a slave, and then set free. The real liberty he was born to, must be taken away, before he could have this seeming freedom. But this was not the only instance, in which Murena acted with less generosity than became an officer of his rank.

Lucullus then turned towards the cities of Asia, that he might bestow the time which was not employed in war on the promotion of law and justice. These had long lost their influence in that province, which was overwhelmed with unspeakable misfortunes. It was desolated and enslaved by the farmers of the revenue, and by usurers. The poor inhabitants were forced to sell the most beautiful of their sons and daughters, the ornaments, and offerings in their temples, their paintings, and the statues of their gods. The last resource was to serve their creditors

as

as slaves. Their sufferings prior to this, were more cruel and insupportable; prisons, racks, tortures, exposures to the burning sun in summer, and in winter to the extremity of cold, amidst ice or mire; insomuch that servitude seemed a happy deliverance and a scene of peace. Lucullus, finding the cities in such dreadful distress, soon rescued the oppressed from all their burthens.

In the first place, he ordered the creditors not to take above one* in the hundred for a month's interest: in the next place he abolished all interest that exceeded the principal: the third and most important regulation was, that the creditor should not take above a fourth part of the debtor's income. And if any one took interest upon interest, he was to lose all. By these means, in less than four years, all the debts were paid, and the estates restored free to the proprietors. The public fine which Sylla had laid upon Asia was twenty thousand talents. It had been paid twice; and yet the merciless collectors, by usury upon usury, now brought it to a hundred and twenty thousand talents.

These men, pretending they had been unjustly treated, raised a clamour in Rome against Lucullus, and hired a number of popular orators to speak against him. They had, indeed, a considerable interest, because many persons who had a share in the administration, were their debtors. Lucullus, on the other hand, was beloved not only by the nations which had experienced his good offices; but the hearts of the other provinces were his, and they longed for a governor who had made such numbers happy.

Appius Clodius, who was sent ambassador to Tigranes by Lucullus, and who was his wife's brother, at first fell into the hands of guides that were subjects to Mithridates. These men made him take an unnecessary circuit of many days journey in the

* This was the legal interest among the Romans. Whence we may learn the comparative scarcity of money in those times.

upper countries; but at last an enfranchised servant of his, a Syrian by nation, discovered to him the imposition, and shewed him the right road. He then bade adieu to his barbarian guides, and in a few days passed the Euphrates, and reached Antioch * of Daphne.

There he had orders to wait for Tigranes, who was then employed in reducing some cities of Phoenicia; and he found means to bring over to the Roman interest, many princes who submitted to the Armenian out of pure necessity. Among these was Zarbienus, king of Gordyene. A number of the cities too, which Tigranes had conquered, privately sent deputies to Clodius; and he promised them all the succour Lucullus could give, but desired they would make no immediate resistance. The Armenian government was, indeed, an insupportable burthen to the Greeks. Particularly, the king's pride, through a long course of prosperity, was become so enormous, that he thought whatever is great and admirable in the eyes of the world, was not only in his power, but even made for him. For, though his prospects at first were small and contemptible, he had subdued many nations, and humbled the Parthian power more than any prince before him. He had colonized Mesopotamia with Greeks, whom he draughted in great numbers out of Cilicia and Cappadocia. He had drawn the *Scenite* † Arabians from their wandering way of life, and placed them nearer to Armenia, that he might avail himself of their mercantile abilities. He had many kings at his court in the capacity of servants, and four in particular as mace-bearers or

* Among several cities of that name this was the principal. It was called, however, by way of distinction, the Antioch of Daphne. Daphne was a beautiful village, about forty furlongs from it, consecrated to the nymph of that name, and adorned with groves of a large extent, several of them probably of laurel; in the midst of which stood the temple of Apollo and Diana. The grove and temple were a sanctuary.

† Probably so called from their living in tents.

footmen, who, whenever he rode on horseback, ran before him in short jerkins; and, when he sat to give audience, stood by with their hands clasped together; which last circumstance seems a mark of the lowest slavery, a token that they had not only resigned their liberty, but that they were prepared rather to suffer than to act.

Appius, not in the least disconcerted at all this pomp, plainly set forth his commission, at his first audience, "That he was come to demand Mithridates, "whom Lucullus claimed for his triumph; otherwise he must declare war against Tigranes." Whatever efforts that prince made to receive the message with an easy countenance and a kind of smile, it was visible to all that he was affected with the young man's bold address. This was, indeed, the first free speech he had heard for five-and-twenty years; for so long he had been a king, or rather a tyrant. However, the answer he gave Appius was, "That "he would not deliver up Mithridates, and if the "Romans began the war, he was able to defend "himself." He was displeased with Lucullus for giving him, in his letter, barely the title of king, and not that of king of kings; and therefore in his answer he would not address him as *Imperator* *. This did not hinder him from sending magnificent presents to Appius; and, when he found he did not accept them, he sent more. At last, Appius, that he might not seem to reject them out of any particular pique, took a cup, and sent back all the rest. Then he returned with the utmost expedition to his general.

Before this, Tigranes had not deigned to admit Mithridates into his presence, nor to speak to a prince who was so nearly allied to him, and who had lately lost so great a kingdom. He had sent him in a

* The English word *general* is not entirely equivalent to the Greek *αυτοκρατωρ* or the Latin *imperator*, which was afterwards the title of the emperors.

contemptuous manner to remote marshes and a sickly air, where he was kept like a prisoner. But now he called him to court with great marks of honour and regard. In a private conference they exculpated themselves at the expence of their friends. Metrodorus the Scepsian was of the number; an able speaker, and a man of extensive erudition, who had been in such high favour, that he was stiled the king's father. It seems, when he went ambassador from Mithridates to the Armenian court, to beg assistance against the Romans, Tigranes said, "What would you, Metrodorus, advise me to in this case?" whether it was that he had the interest of Tigranes in view, or whether he wanted to see Mithridates absolutely ruined, he answered, "As an ambassador, I should exhort you to it; but, as your counsellor, I should advise you against it." Tigranes discovered this to Mithridates, not imagining he would resent it in the manner he did. The unfortunate prince immediately put Metrodorus to death; and Tigranes greatly repented the step he had taken, though he was not absolutely the cause of that minister's death but only added stings to the hatred Mithridates had long entertained for him. This appeared when his private memorandums were taken, in which Metrodorus was found among those marked out for the axe. Tigranes buried him honourably, and spared no expence in his funeral, though he had been the cause of his death.

Amphicrates, the orator, likewise died at that court, if we may be allowed to record his name for the sake of Athens. He is said to have been banished his country and to have retired to Seleucia upon the Tigris, where the inhabitants desired him to open a school of rhetoric, but he answered in the most contemptuous manner, and with all the vanity of a sophist, "That a plate could not contain a dolphin." From thence he went to the court of Cleopatra, the daughter of Mithridates, and wife of Tigranes, where

where he soon made himself so obnoxious, that he was forbidden all intercourse with the Greeks; upon which he starved himself to death. Cleopatra bestowed upon *him* too a magnificent funeral, and his tomb is near a place called Sapha.

Lucullus, having established peace and good laws in Asia, did not neglect what might be conducive to elegance and pleasure; but, during his stay at Ephesus, entertained the Grecian cities with shows, triumphal feasts, and trials of skill between wrestlers and gladiators. The cities, in return, instituted a feast to his honour, which they called *Lucullia*; and the real affection that inspired them with the thought, was more agreeable than the honour itself.

When Appius was returned, and had acquainted him that it was necessary to go to war with Tigranes, he went back to Pontus, and put himself at the head of his troops. His first operation was to lay siege to Sinope, or rather to a corps of Cilicians who had thrown themselves into the town on the part of Mithridates. These, upon the approach of Lucullus, put a great number of the inhabitants to the sword, and after setting fire to the place, endeavoured to escape in the night. But Lucullus discovering their intention, entered the town, and having killed eight thousand of them who were left behind, restored their effects to the old inhabitants; and exerted himself greatly in saving the city from the flames. His particular inducement was the following dream. He dreamed that a person stood by him, and said, "Go forward, Lucullus; for Autolycus is coming to meet you." When he awaked, he could form no conjecture about the signification of the dream. However, he took the city the same day, and, in pursuing the Cilicians to their ships, he saw a statue lying on the shore, which they had not been able to get on board. The work was one of the master-pieces of Sthenis; and he was told that it was the statue of Autolycus, the founder of Sinope. This Autolycus
is

is said to have been the son of Deimachus, and one of those Theſſalians who aſſiſted Hercules in the war againſt the Amazons *. In his voyage back, along with Demoleon and Phlogius, his ſhip ſtruck on a rock of the Cherſoneſus called Pedalion, and he loſt it. He and his friends, however, ſaved their lives and their arms, and went to Sinope, which they took from the Syrians. The Syrians, who then held it, we are told, were ſo called, becauſe they were the deſcendants of Syrus the ſon of Apollo and Sinope the daughter of Afopus. When Lucullus heard this, he recollected the obſervation of Sylla in his Commentaries, “ That nothing more deſerves our belief “ and attention, than what is ſignified to us in “ dreams.”

After news was brought that Mithridates and Tigranes were on the point of entering Lycaonia and Cilicia with all their forces, in order to ſeize Aſia before him, he could not help thinking it ſtrange, that the Armenian did not make uſe of Mithridates when in his glory, nor join the armies of Pontus while they were in their full ſtrength; but ſuffered them to be broken and deſtroyed; and now at laſt with cold hopes of ſucceſs began the war, or rather threw himſelf down headlong with thoſe who could ſtand no longer.

Amidſt theſe tranſactions, Machares the ſon of Mithridates, who was maſter of the Boſphorus, ſent Lucullus, a coronet of gold of a thouſand crowns value, and begged to be numbered among the friends and allies of Rome. Lucullus, now concluding that the firſt war was finiſhed, left Sornatius, with a corps of ſix thouſand men, to ſettle the affairs of that province; and with twelve thouſand foot and leſs than

* Strabo tells us, Autolycus was one of the Argonauts, who after his voyage to Colchis, ſettled at Sinope, and had divine honours paid him after his death.

three thousand horse, marched to meet another war. It seemed amazing temerity to go with a handful of men against so many warlike nations, so many myriads of cavalry, and such a vast country, intersected with deep rivers, and barricaded with mountains for ever covered with snow. Of course his soldiers, who were not otherwise under the best discipline, now followed with great reluctance, and were ready to mutiny. On the other hand, the popular orators clamoured against him in Rome, representing that he levied war after war; not that the public utility required it, but that he might always keep the command and continue in arms, and that he might accumulate riches at the risque of the commonwealth. These at last succeeded in their design, which was to recall Lucullus.

At present he reached the Euphrates by long marches. He found it swollen and overflowing by reason of the late rains, and was apprehensive he should find much delay and difficulty in collecting boats and making a bridge of them. But in the evening the flood began to subside, and lessened in such a manner in the night, that next morning the river appeared much within its channel. The people of the country seeing little islands in its bed, which had seldom been visible, and the stream breaking gently about them, considered Lucullus as something more than mortal. For they saw the great river put on a mild and obliging air to him, and afford him a quick and easy passage.

He availed himself of the opportunity, and passed it with his army. An auspicious omen appeared immediately after. A number of heifers, sacred to the Persian Diana, the goddess whom the inhabitants of those parts particularly worship, pastured on the other side. These heifers are used only in the way of sacrifice; at other times they range at large, marked with the figure of a torch, as a token of their designation;

nation; and it is difficult to take them when they are wanted. But now the army had no sooner crossed the river, than one of them went and stood by a rock which is deemed sacred to the goddess, and hanging down her head in the manner of those that are bound, offered herself to Lucullus as a victim. He sacrificed also a bull to the Euphrates, on account of his safe passage.

He stayed there that whole day to refresh his army. The next day he marched through Sophene, without doing the least injury to those who submitted, and received his troops in a proper manner. Nay, when his men wanted to stop and take a fort that was supposed to be full of treasure, he pointed to Mount Taurus which appeared at a distance, and said, "Yonder is the fort you are to take; as for these things, they will of course belong to the conqueror." Then pushing his march, he crossed the Tigris, and entered Armenia.

As Tigranes ordered the first man who brought him an account of the enemy's arrival, to lose his head for his reward, no one afterwards presumed to mention it. He remained in ignorance, though the hostile fire already touched him; and with pleasure heard his flatterers say, "Lucullus would be a great general, if he waited for Tigranes at Ephesus, and did not quit Asia at the sight of his vast armies." Thus it is not every man that can bear much wine, nor can an ordinary mind bear great prosperity without staggering. The first of his friends who ventured to tell him the truth, was Mithrobarzanes; and he was but ill rewarded for the liberty he had taken. He was sent against Lucullus with three thousand horse and a more respectable body of foot, with orders to take the Roman general alive, but to tread the rest under his feet.

Part of the Roman forces were pitching their tents, and the rest were upon the march when their scouts brought intelligence that the barbarians were
at

at hand. He had, therefore, his apprehensions, that if they attacked him before his troops were all assembled and formed, they might be put in disorder. The measure he took was to stay and entrench himself: mean time he sent his lieutenant Sextilius with sixteen hundred horse, and not many more infantry, including both the light and the heavy-armed, with orders, when he approached the enemy, to stop and amuse them, till he should be informed that the entrenchments were finished.

Sextilius was willing to obey his orders, but Mithrobarzanes came upon him so boldly, that he was forced to fight. Mithrobarzanes behaved with great bravery, but fell in the action. Then his troops took to flight, and were most of them cut in pieces.

After this, Tigranes left Tigranocerta, the great city which he had built, and retired to Mount Taurus, where he intended to collect all his forces. But Lucullus, not giving him much time for preparation, sent Murena to harass and cut off the parties on one side, as fast as they came up; on the other side, Sextilius advanced against a large corps of Arabians, which was going to join the king. Sextilius came upon the Arabians as they were encamping, and killed the greatest part of them. Murena following the steps of Tigranes, took his opportunity to attack him, as he was leading a great army along a rugged and narrow defile. The king himself fled, abandoning all his baggage. Many of the Armenians were put to the sword, and greater numbers made prisoners.

Lucullus, after this success, marched against Tigranocerta, and invested it with his army. There were in that city many Greeks who had been transplanted out of Cilicia, and many barbarians whose fortune had been no better than that of the Greeks, Adiabeniens, Assyrians, Gordyeniens, and Cappadocians, whose cities Tigranes had demolished, and then removed the inhabitants, and compelled them to

settle in that he had built. The place was full of treasure and rich ornaments; every private person, as well as grandee, to make their court to the king, striving which should contribute most to its embellishment. For this reason Lucullus carried on the siege with great vigour, in the opinion that Tigranes would, contrary to his better judgment, be provoked to give him battle. And he was not mistaken. Mithridates, by messengers and letters, dissuaded the king much from hazarding a battle, and advised him only to cut off the Roman convoys with his cavalry. Taxiles too, who came on the part of Mithridates to co-operate with Tigranes, intreated him to avoid meeting the Roman arms, which he assured him were invincible.

At first the king heard him with patience. But when the Armenians and Gordyenians arrived with all their forces; when the kings of the Medes and Adiabeniens had brought in their armies; when numbers of Arabians came from the coasts of the Babylonian sea*, Albanians from the Caspian, and Iberians from the neighbourhood of the Albanians; beside a considerable body gained by presents and persuasion, from those nations about the Araxes that live without regal government: then nothing was expressed at the king's table or council-board, but sanguine hopes and barbarian menaces. Taxiles in danger of his life for attempting to oppose the resolution to give battle, and Mithridates himself was accused of envying the glorious success that would attend his son-in-law.

Tigranes, therefore, would not wait for him, lest he should share with him the honour of the victory; but advanced immediately with all his forces; and is said to have expressed to his friends some uneasiness, "that he should have to do only with Lucullus, and not try his strength at once with all the generals of Rome." Indeed, these boasts of the king do not appear en-

* The Persian Gulph.

tirely frantic and destitute of reason, while he was surveying so many nations and princes under his standard, such astonishing numbers of heavy-armed infantry, and so many myriads of cavalry. He had twenty thousand archers and slingers, and fifty-five thousand horse, of which seventeen thousand were clad in steel, according to the account Lucullus sent the senate. His infantry, divided into companies and battalions, consisted of a hundred and fifty thousand men; and there were thirty-five thousand pioneers and other labourers to make good the roads, to prepare bridges, to cleanse the course of rivers, to provide wood, and to answer all the occasions of the army. These were drawn up behind, to give it a greater appearance of strength and numbers.

When he had passed Mount Taurus, and spread his troops upon the plain, he could see the Roman army besieging Tigranocerta. The mixed multitude of barbarians in the city likewise saw him, and in a menacing manner pointed to their king's armies from the walls.

Lucullus, before the battle, held a council of war. Some advised him to quit the siege, and meet Tigranes with all his forces; others were of opinion, that he should continue the siege, and not leave so many enemies behind him. He told them, that neither separately gave good counsel, but both together did. He therefore divided his forces, and left Murena before the place with six thousand men; while he with the rest of the infantry, consisting of twenty-four cohorts, which contained not more than ten thousand combatants, with all his cavalry, and about a thousand slingers and archers, marched against Tigranes.

He encamped on a large plain with a river before him; where his army appearing no more than a handful, afforded much matter of mirth to the flatterers of the king. Some ridiculed the diminutive appearance; others, by way of jest cast lots for the spoil.

And there was not one of the generals and princes, who did not come and desire to be employed alone upon that service, while Tigranes needed only to sit still and look on. The king too, thinking he must shew himself facetious on the occasion, made use of that celebrated expression, "That if they came as ambassadors, there were too many of them; if as soldiers too few." Thus they passed the first day in raillery.

Next morning at break of day Lucullus drew out his army. The camp of the barbarians was on the east side of the river. But the river, where it is most fordable, makes a bend to the west. As Lucullus marched hastily down to that quarter, Tigranes thought he was retreating. Upon this, he called to Taxiles, and said with a scornful smile, "Seest thou not these invincible Roman legions taking to flight?" Taxiles answered, "I wish from my soul, my lord, that your good genius may work a miracle in your favour; but these legions do not use their best accoutrements in a mere march. They do not wear their polished shields, nor take their bright helmets out of their cases, as you see they have now done. All this splendid appearance indicates their intention to fight, and to advance against their enemies as fast as possible."

While Taxiles was yet speaking, they saw the eagle of the foremost legion make a motion to the right by order of Lucullus, and the cohorts proceed in good order to pass the river.

Then Tigranes with much difficulty awaked from his intoxication, and exclaimed two or three times, "Are these men coming against us?" After this, he drew out his forces in a hasty and disorderly manner, taking himself the command of the main body, and giving the left wing to the king of the Adiabeniens, and the right to the king of the Medes. Before this right wing were placed most of the cavalry that were armed in steel.

As

As Lucullus was going to pass the river, some of his officers admonished him to beware of that day, which had been an inauspicious, or (as they called it) a black one to the Romans. For on that day Caepio's army was defeated by the Cimbri. Lucullus returned that memorable answer, "I will make this day too an auspicious one for Rome." It was the sixth of October.

Having thus spoken, and withal exhorted his men to exert themselves, he advanced at the head of them against the enemy. He was armed with a breast-plate of steel formed in scales, which cast a surprising lustre; and the robe he wore over it, was adorned with fringe. He drew his sword immediately, to shew his troops the necessity of coming hand to hand with an enemy who were accustomed to fight at a distance; and by the vigour of their charge not to leave them room to exercise their missile weapons. Observing that the enemy's heavy-armed cavalry, upon which they had their chief dependance, was covered by a hill that was plain and even at top, and which, with an extent of only four furlongs, was not very difficult to ascend, he dispatched his Thracian and Gaulish horse, with orders to take them in flank, and to strike at nothing but the shafts of their pikes. Their whole strength, indeed, consists in the pike, and they have no other weapon, either offensive or defensive, that they can use, by reason of their heavy and unwieldy armour, in which they are, as it were, immured.

Meanwhile he began to climb the hill with two companies of infantry, and the soldiers followed him with great readiness, when they saw him, encumbered as he was with armour, the first to labour on foot up the ascent. When he had reached the summit, he stood on the most conspicuous part of it, and cried out, "The victory is ours; my fellow-soldiers, the victory is ours." At the same time he advanced against the heavy-armed cavalry, and

ordered his men not to make any use of their javelins, but to come to close action, and to aim their blows at their enemies legs and thighs, in which parts alone they were not armed. There was no need, however, to put this in execution. For, instead of standing to receive the Romans, they set up a cry of fear, and most despicably fled without striking a stroke. In their flight, they and their horses, heavy with armour, ran back upon their own infantry, and put them in confusion: insomuch that all those myriads were routed, without standing to receive one wound, or spilling one drop of blood. Multitudes, however, were slain in their flight, or rather in their attempt to fly; their ranks being so thick and deep, that they entangled and impeded each other.

Tigranes rode off one of the first, with a few attendants; and seeing his son taking his share in his misfortune, he took the diadem from his head, gave it him with tears, and desired him to save himself in the best manner he could by taking some other road. The young prince did not venture to wear it, but put it into the hands of one of his most faithful servants, who happened afterwards to be taken and brought to Lucullus: by this means the royal diadem of Tigranes added to the honours of the spoil. It is said that of the foot there fell above a hundred thousand, and of the horse very few escaped; whereas the Romans had but five killed, and a hundred wounded. Antiochus* the philosopher, in his treatise concerning the Gods, speaking of this action, says, the sun never beheld such another. Strabo†, another philosopher, in his historical commentaries informs us, that the Romans were ashamed, and ridiculed each other, for having em-

* Antiochus of Escalon. Cicero was his disciple.

† Strabo, the geographer and historian, was also a philosopher of the Stoic form.

ployed weapons against such vile slaves. And Livy tells us, the Romans, with such inferior numbers, never engaged such a multitude as this. The victors did not, indeed, make up the twentieth part of the vanquished. The most able and experienced commanders among the Romans paid the highest compliments to the generalship of Lucullus, principally, because he had defeated two of the greatest and most powerful kings in the world by methods entirely different; the one by an expeditious, and the other by a slow process. He ruined Mithridates, when in the height of his power, by protracting the war, and Tigranes by the celerity of his movements. Indeed, among all the generals in the world, there have been very few instances of any one's availing himself of delay for execution, or of expedition for security.

Hence it was, that Mithridates made no haste to come to action, or to join Tigranes; imagining that Lucullus would proceed with his usual caution and slowness. But as soon as he met a few Armenians on the road, with the greatest marks of consternation upon them, he formed some conjecture of what had happened; and when many more came up naked and wounded, he was too well assured of the loss, and enquired for Tigranes. Though he found him in the most destitute and deplorable condition, he did not offer him the least insult. Instead of that, he dismounted, and bewailed with him their common misfortunes; gave him his own royal equipage, and held up to him a prospect of better success. They began to levy other forces.

In Tigranocerta the Greeks had mutinied against the barbarians, and wanted to deliver up the city to Lucullus. Accordingly he gave the assault, and took it. After he had secured the royal treasures, he gave up the plunder of the town to his soldiers, and they found there, besides other rich booty, eight

thousand talents in coined money. Lucullus added eight hundred drachmas to each man's share.

Being informed that there were found in the town a number of such artists as are requisite in theatrical exhibitions, whom Tigranes had collected from all parts, for opening the theatre he had built, he made use of them in the games and other public diversions in honour of his victory.

He sent back the Greeks to their own countries, and furnished them with necessaries for that purpose. He likewise permitted the barbarians who had been compelled to settle there, to return to their respective abodes. Thus it happened that, by the dispersion of the people of one city, many cities recovered their former inhabitants. For which reason Lucullus was revered by them as a patron and founder. He succeeded also in his other undertakings agreeably to his merit; being more desirous of the praise of justice and humanity, than of that which arises from military achievements. For in those the army claims no small part, and fortune a greater; whereas the other are proofs of a gentle disposition and subdued mind, and by them Lucullus brought the barbarians to submit without the sword. The kings of the Arabs came over to him, and put their possessions in his power; the whole nation of Sophene followed their example; and the Gordyenians were so well inclined to serve him, that they were willing to quit their habitations, and follow him with their wives and children. The cause was this.

Zarbienus, king of Gordyene, unable, as has been said, to support the tyranny of Tigranes, applied privately through Appius to Lucullus, and desired to be admitted as an ally. This application being discovered, he was put to death with his wife and children, before the Romans entered Armenia. Lucullus, however, did not forget it, but, as he passed through Gordyene, took care that Zarbienus should have

have a magnificent funeral, and adorned the pile with gold stuffs and royal vestments found among the spoils of Tigranes. The Roman general himself set fire to it, and, together with the friends and relations of the deceased, offered the accustomed libations declaring him his friend and an ally of the Roman people. He caused a monument, too, to be erected to his memory at a considerable expence: for there was found in the treasury of that prince a great quantity of gold and silver: there were found also in his storehouses three millions of medimni of wheat. This was a sufficient provision for the soldiers; and Lucullus was much admired for making the war maintain itself, and carrying it on without taking one drachma out of the public treasury.

About this time, there came an embassy from the king of Parthia to solicit his friendship and alliance. Lucullus received the proposal with pleasure, and sent ambassadors in his turn; who, when they were at that prince's court, discovered that he was unresolved what part to act, and that he was privately treating with Tigranes for Mesopotamia, as a reward for the succours with which he should furnish him. As soon as Lucullus was sensible of this, he determined to let Tigranes and Mithridates alone, as adversaries already tired out, and to try his strength with the Parthian, by entering his territories. He thought it would be glorious, if in one expedition, during the tide of good fortune, like an able wrestler, he could throw three princes successively, and traverse the dominions of three of the most powerful kings under the sun, perpetually victorious.

For this reason he sent orders to Sornatius and his other officers in Pontus to bring their forces to him, as he intended to begin his march for Parthia from Gordyene. These officers had already found their soldiers refractory and obstinate, but now they saw
them

them absolutely mutinous, and not to be wrought upon by any method of persuasion or of force. On the contrary, they loudly declared they would not even stay there, but would go and leave Pontus itself unguarded. When an account of this behaviour was brought to Lucullus, it corrupted the troops he had with him; and they were very ready to receive these impressions, loaded as they were with wealth, enervated with luxury, and panting after repose. Upon hearing, therefore, of the bold terms in which the others had expressed themselves, they said they acted like men, and set an example worthy of imitation; "and surely," continued they, "our services entitle us to a discharge, that we may return to our country, and enjoy ourselves in security and quiet."

These speeches and worse than these, coming to the ears of Lucullus, he gave up all thoughts of his Parthian expedition, and marched once more against Tigranes. It was now the height of summer, and yet when he had gained the summit of mount Taurus, he saw with regret the corn only green; so backward are the seasons in those parts, by reason of the cold * that prevails there. He descended, however, into the plain, and beat the Armenians who ventured to face him in two or three skirmishes. Then he plundered the villages at pleasure, and, by taking the convoys designed for Tigranes, brought that want upon the enemy, which he had dreaded himself.

He omitted no measure which might bring them to a decisive battle; he drew a line of circumvallation about their camp; he laid waste their country before their eyes: but they had been too often defeated, to think of risking an engagement. He therefore marched against Artaxata the capital of Tigranes, where he had left his wives and children; concluding he would not suffer it to be taken, without attempting its relief.

* This particular is confirmed by modern travellers. They tell us, the snow lies there till August.

It is said, that Hannibal the Carthaginian, after Antiochus was subdued by the Romans, addressed himself to Artaxas king of Armenia. While he was at that prince's court, beside instructing him in other important matters, he pointed out to him a place which, though it then lay neglected, afforded the happiest situation imaginable for a city. He gave him the plan of one, and exhorted him to put it in execution. The king, charmed with the motion, desired him to take the direction of the work; and in a short time there was seen a large and beautiful city, which bore that prince's name, and was declared the metropolis of Armenia.

When Lucullus advanced to lay siege to this place, the patience of Tigranes failed him. He marched in quest of the Romans, and the fourth day encamped over against them, being separated from them only by the river Arsanias, which they must necessarily pass in their march to Artaxata. Lucullus having sacrificed to the gods, in full persuasion that the victory was his own, passed over in order of battle with twelve cohorts in front. The rest were placed in the rear, to prevent their being surrounded by the enemy. For their motions were watched by a large and select body of cavalry, covered by some flying squadrons of Mardian archers and Iberian spearmen, in whose courage and skill Tigranes, of all his foreign troops, placed the highest confidence. Their behaviour, however, did not distinguish them. They exchanged a few blows with the Roman horse, but did not wait the charge of the infantry. They dispersed and fled, and the Roman cavalry pursued them in the different routes they had taken.

Tigranes now seeing his advantage, advanced with his own cavalry. Lucullus was a little intimidated at their numbers and the splendor of their appearance. He therefore called his cavalry off from the pursuit; and in the mean time was the foremost to advance
against

against the nobility *, who with the flower of the army were about the king's person. But they fled at the sight of him, without striking a blow. Of the three kings that were then in the action, the flight of Mithridates seems to have been the most disgraceful, for he did not stand the very shouts of the Romans. The pursuit continued the whole night, till wearied with the carnage, and satisfied with the prisoners, and the booty they had made, the Romans drew off. Livy tells us, that in the former battle there were greater numbers killed and taken prisoners; but in this, persons of higher quality.

Lucullus, elevated with his success, resolved to penetrate the upper country, and to finish the destruction of this barbarian prince. It was now the autumnal equinox, and he met with storms he did not expect. The snow fell almost constantly; and when the sky was clear, the frost was so intense, that by reason of the extreme cold the horses could hardly drink of the rivers; nor could they pass them but with the utmost difficulty, because the ice broke, and cut the sinews of their legs. Besides, the greatest part of their march was through close and woody roads, where the troops were daily wet with the snow that lodged upon the trees; and they had only damp places wherein to pass the night. *

They had not, therefore, followed Lucullus many days, before they began to be refractory. At first they had recourse to intreaties, and sent their tribunes to intercede for them. Afterwards they met in a more tumultuous manner, and their murmurs were heard all over the camp by night; and this, perhaps,

* In the original it is Σατραπηνων; by which in all probability is meant the king's body-guard, consisting chiefly of the nobility. According to Livy, no less than sixty of Tigranes's friends and great officers walked in the procession of Lucullus's triumph. Nor is it to be wondered, that he had a guard of his own nobility, when he had conquered princes for his menial servants.

is the surest token of a mutiny. Lucullus tried what every milder measure could do : he exhorted them only to compose themselves a little longer, till they had destroyed the Armenian Carthage, built by Hannibal the greatest enemy to the Roman name. But, finding his eloquence ineffectual, he marched back, and passed the ridge of mount Taurus another way. He came down into Mygdonia, an open and fertile country, where stands a great and populous city, which the barbarians called Nisibis, and the Greeks Antioch * of Mygdonia. Gouras, brother to Tigranes, had the title of governor on account of his dignity; but the commander in fact was Callimachus, who by his great abilities as an engineer, had given Lucullus so much trouble at Amisus.

Lucullus, having invested the place, availed himself of all the arts that are used in a siege, and pressed the place with so much vigour that he carried it sword in hand. Gouras surrendered himself, and he treated him with great humanity. He would not, however, listen to Callimachus, though he offered to discover to him a vast quantity of hidden treasure; but put him in fetters, in order that he might suffer capital punishment for setting fire to the city of Amisus, and by that means depriving him of the honour of shewing his clemency to the Greeks.

Hitherto one might say, fortune had followed Lucullus, and fought for him. But from this time the gales of her favour fell; he could do nothing but with infinite difficulty, and struck upon every rock in his way. He behaved indeed with all the valour and persevering spirit of a good general, but his actions had no longer their wonted glory and favourable acceptance with the world. Nay, tossed as he was on the waves of fruitless contention, he was in danger of losing the glory he had already required. For great part of his misfortunes he might blame himself, be-

* It was called Antioch, because in its delicious walks and pleasing situation it resembled the Antioch of Daphne.

cause, in the first place, he would never study to oblige the common soldiers, but looked upon every compliance with their inclinations, as the source of his disgrace and the destruction of his authority. What was of still greater consequence, he could not behave in an easy affable manner to those who were upon a footing with him in point of rank and birth, but treated them with haughtiness, and considered himself as greatly their superior. These blemishes Lucullus had amidst many perfections. He was tall, well-made, graceful, eloquent, and had abilities for the administration as well as for the field.

Salust tells us, the soldiers were ill-affected to him from the beginning of the war, because he made them keep the field two winters successively, the one before Cyzicum and the other before Amisus. The rest of the winters were very disagreeable to them: they either passed them in hostilities against some enemy; or, if they happened to be among friends, they were obliged to live in tents. For Lucullus never once suffered his troops to enter any Grecian city, or any other in alliance with Rome.

While the soldiers were of themselves thus ill-disposed, they were made still more mutinous by the demagogues at home; who, through envy to Lucullus, accused him of protracting the war from a love of command, and of the riches it procured him. He had almost the entire direction (they said) of Cilicia, Asia, Bithynia, Paphlagonia, Galatia, Pontus, Armenia, and all the provinces as far as the Phasis: and now he was pillaging the royal palaces of Tigranes, as if he had been sent to strip, not to subdue kings. So Lucius Quintus, one of the tribunes, is said to have expressed himself; the same who was principally concerned in procuring a decree, that Lucullus should have a successor sent him, and that most of his troops should have their discharge.

To these misfortunes was added another, which absolutely ruined the affairs of Lucullus. Publius Clodius,

Clodius, a man of the utmost insolence and effrontery, was brother to his wife, who was so abandoned a woman, that it was believed she had a criminal commerce with him. He now bore arms under Lucullus, and imagined he had not the post he deserved; for he wanted the first: and on account of his disorderly life, many were put before him. Finding this, he practised with the Fimbrian troops, and endeavoured to set them against Lucullus, by flattering speeches and insinuations, to which they were neither unaccustomed, nor unwilling to attend. For these were the men whom Fimbria had formerly persuaded to kill the consul Flaccus, and to appoint him their general. Still retaining such inclinations, they received Clodius with pleasure, and called him the soldier's friend. He did, indeed, pretend to be concerned at their sufferings, and used to say—" Shall
" there no period be put to their wars and toils? shall
" they go on fighting one nation after another, and
" wear out their lives in wandering over the world?
" and what is the reward of so many laborious expeditions? what, but to guard the waggons and
" camels of Lucullus loaded with cups of gold and
" precious stones? whereas Pompey's soldiers, already
" discharged, sit down with their wives and children
" upon fertile estates and in agreeable towns; not
" for having driven Mithridates and Tigranes into
" inaccessible desarts, and destroying the royal
" cities in Asia, but for fighting with fugitives in
" Spain and slaves in Italy. If we must for ever have
" our swords in our hands, let us reserve all our
" hearts, and what remains of our limbs, for a general who thinks the wealth of his men his greatest
" ornament."

These complaints against Lucullus corrupted his soldiers in such a manner, that they would neither follow him against Tigranes, nor yet against Mithridates, who from Armenia had thrown himself into Pontus, and was begining to recover his authority there.

there. They pretended it was impracticable to march in the winter, and therefore loitered in Gordyene, expecting Pompey or some other general would come as successor to Lucullus. But when intelligence was brought that Mithridates had defeated Fabius, and was marching against Sornatius and Triarius, they were ashamed of their inaction, and told Lucullus he might lead them wherever he pleased.

Triarius being informed of the approach of Lucullus, was ambitious, before he arrived, to seize the victory which he thought perfectly secure; in consequence of which he hazarded and lost a great battle. It is said that above seven thousand Romans were killed, among whom were a hundred and fifty centurions and twenty-four tribunes. Mithridates likewise took their camp. Lucullus arrived a few days after, fortunately enough for Triarius, whom he concealed from the soldiers who wanted to wreak their vengeance upon him.

As Mithridates avoided an action with Lucullus, and chose to wait for Tigranes who was coming with a great army, Lucullus, in order to prevent their junction, determined to go in quest of Tigranes once more. But as he was upon his march, the Fimbrians mutinied and deserted his standard, alledging that they were discharged by an express decree, and no longer obliged to serve under Lucullus, when those provinces were consigned to another. Lucullus, on this occasion, submitted to many things beneath his dignity. He applied to the private men one by one, going round to their tents with a supplicating aspect and with tears in his eyes; nay, he condescended to take some of them by the hand. But they rejected all his advances, and throwing down their empty purses before him, bade him go and fight the enemy himself; since he was the only person that knew how to make his advantage of it.

However, as the other soldiers interposed, the Fimbrians were prevailed upon to stay all the summer,

on condition that if no enemy faced them in the field during that time, they should be at liberty to retire. Lucullus was obliged either to accept this proposal, or to abandon the country, and leave it an easy prey to the barbarians. He kept the troops together, therefore, without pretending to exercise any act of power upon them, or to lead them out to battle; thinking it all he could expect, if they would but remain upon the spot. At the same time, he looked on, while Tigranes was ravaging Cappadocia, and Mithridates was growing strong and insolent again; though he had acquainted the senate by letter, that he was absolutely conquered, and deputies were come to settle the affairs of Pontus, as a province entirely reduced. These deputies, on their arrival, found that he was not even master of himself, but exposed to every instance of insult and contempt from his own soldiers. Nay, they treated their general with such wanton mockery, as, when the summer was past, to arm, and challenge the enemy who were now retired into quarters. They shouted as in the charge, made passes in the air, and then left the camp, calling Lucullus to witness that they had stayed the time they promised him.

Pompey wrote to the other legions to attend him. For, through his interest with the people, and the flattering insinuations of the orators, he was already appointed general against Mithridates and Tigranes. To the senate, indeed, and all the best of the Romans, Lucullus appeared to have very hard treatment, since a person was sent to succeed him, not so much in the war, as in his triumph; and he was robbed rather of the prize of honour, than of the command. Those that were upon the spot, found the matter still more invidious. Lucullus had no longer the power, either of rewarding or punishing. Pompey suffered no man to wait upon him about any business whatever, or to pay any regard to the regulations he had made in concurrence with the ten commissioners

He forbade it by exprefs and public orders ; and his influence was great, on account of his coming with a more respectable army.

Yet their friends thought it proper that they ſhould come to an interview ; and accordingly they did ſo in a village of Galatia. They addreſſed each other with much politeneſs, and with mutual compliments on their great ſucceſs. Lucullus was the older man, but Pompey had ſuperior dignity, for he had commanded in more wars, and had been honoured with two triumphs. Each had the *faſces* carried before him, adorned with laurel on account of their reſpective victories : but as Pompey had travelled a long way through dry and parched countries, the laurels about his *faſces* were withered. The liſtors that preceded Lucullus, obſerving this, freely gave them a ſufficient quantity of their freſh and green ones ; which Pompey's friends conſidered as an auſpicious circumſtance. And, in fact, the great actions of Lucullus did caſt a luſtre over this expedition of Pompey.

This interview, however, had no good effect: They parted with greater rancour in their hearts than they entertained at their meeting. Pompey annulled the acts of Lucullus ; and taking the reſt of his troops from him, left him only ſixteen hundred men for his triumph ; and even theſe followed him with reluctance. So ill qualified or ſo unfortunate was Lucullus, with reſpect to the firſt and greateſt requiſite in a general, gaining the hearts of his ſoldiers. Had this been added to his many other great and admirable talents, his courage, his vigilance, his prudence and juſtice, the Roman empire would not have been terminated, on the ſide of Aſia, by the Euphrates, but by the Hyrcanian ſea and the extremities of the earth. For Tigranes had already conquered the other nations ; and the power of the Parthians was neither ſo great nor ſo united in itſelf, during this expedition of Lucullus, as it was afterwards

terwards in the time of Crassus. On the contrary, they were weakened by intestine wars, and by hostilities with their neighbours, insomuch that they were not able to repel the insults of the Armenians. In my opinion, indeed, the advantages which his country reaped from Lucullus, were not equivalent to the calamities which he occasioned others to bring upon it. The trophies of Armenia just in the neighbourhood of Parthia, the palms of Tigranocerta and Nisibis, with all their vast wealth carried in triumph into Rome, and the captive diadem of Tigranes adorning the shew, drew Crassus into Asia; as if its barbarous inhabitants had been a sure and easy prey. However, when he met the Parthian arrows, he soon found that the success of Lucullus was owing to his own courage and capacity, and not to the folly and effeminacy of the enemy.

Upon his return to Rome, Lucullus found his brother Marcus impeached by Memmius, for the practices he had given into, during his quaestorship, by order of Sylla. And when Marcus was acquitted, Memmius turned against Lucullus himself; alleging that he had converted a great deal of the booty to his own private use, and had wilfully protracted the war. By these means he endeavoured to exasperate the people against him, and to prevail with them to refuse him his triumph. Lucullus was in great danger of losing it; but at this crisis the first and greatest men in Rome mixed with the tribes, and, after much canvassing and the most engaging application, with great difficulty procured him the triumph.

Its glory did not consist, like that of others, in the length of the procession, or in the astonishing pomp and quantity of spoils, but in exhibiting the enemy's arms, the engines and other warlike equipage of the kings. With these he had adorned the Circus Flaminius, and they made a very agreeable and respectable show. In the procession, there were a few

of the heavy-armed cavalry, and ten chariots armed with scythes. These were followed by sixty grandoes, either friends or lieutenants of the kings. After them were drawn a hundred and ten galleys with brazen beaks. The next objects were a statue of Mithridates in massy gold, full six feet high, and his shield set with precious stones. Then came up twenty exhibitions of silver vessels, and two-and-thirty more of gold cups, arms, and gold coin. All these things were borne by men. These were followed by eight mules which carried beds of gold, and fifty-six more, loaded with silver bullion. After these came a hundred and seven other mules, bearing silver coin to the amount of near two million seven hundred thousand drachmas. The procession was closed with the registers of the money with which he had furnished Pompey for the war with the pirates, what he had remitted the quaestors for the public treasury, and the distributions he had made among the soldiers at the rate of nine hundred and fifty drachmas each man. The triumph concluded with a magnificent entertainment provided for the whole city and the adjacent villages.

He now divorced Clodia for her infamous intrigues, and married Servilia the sister of Cato; but this second match was not more fortunate than the first. Servilia wanted no stain which Clodia had, except that of a commerce with her brothers. In other respects she was equally profligate and abominable. He forced himself, however, to endure her a long time, out of reverence to Cato, but at last repudiated her too.

The senate had conceived great hopes of Lucullus, that he would prove a counterpoise to the tyranny of Pompey, and a protector of the whole patrician order; the rather because he had acquired so much honour and authority by his great actions. He gave up the cause, however, and quitted all pretensions to the administration: Whether it was that he saw the
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constitution in too sickly and declining a condition to be corrected; or whether, as others will have it, that being fatiated with public honours, and having gone through many labours and conflicts which had not the most fortunate issue, he chose to retire to a life of ease and indulgence. And they commend this change in his conduct, as much better than the distempered measures of Marius; who, after his victories over the Cimbri and all his glorious achievements, was not content with the admiration of his countrymen; but from an insatiable thirst of power, contended, in the decline of life, with the ambition of young men, falling into dreadful crimes, and into sufferings still more dreadful. "How much happier," said they, "would it have been for Cicero if he had retired after the affair of Catiline; and for Scipio, if he had furled his sails, when he had added Numantia to Carthage. For there is a period when we should bid adieu to political contests: these, as well as those of wrestlers, being absurd, when the strength and vigour of life is gone."

On the other hand, Crassus and Pompey ridiculed Lucullus for giving into a life of pleasure and expence; thinking it full as unseasonable at his time of life to plunge into luxury, as to direct the administration or lead armies into the field. Indeed the life of Lucullus does look like the ancient comedy*, where first we see great actions both political and military, and afterwards feasts, debauches, I had almost said masquerades, races by torch-light, and every kind of frivolous amusement. For among frivolous amusements I cannot but reckon his sumptuous villas, walks, and baths; and still more so, the paintings, statues, and other works of art, which he collected at an immense expence; idly squandering away upon them the vast fortune which he had amassed in

* The antient satyrical or comic pieces were partly tragical, and partly comical. The Cyclops of Euripides is the only piece of that kind which is extant.

the wars*. Infomuch that even now, when luxury has made so much greater advances, the gardens of Lucullus are numbered with those of kings, and the most magnificent even of those. When Tubero, the Stoic, beheld his works on the sea-coast near Naples, the hills he had excavated for vaults and cellars, the reservoirs he had formed about his houses, to receive the sea for the feeding of his fish, and his edifices in the sea itself; the philosopher called him Xerxes† in a gown. Beside these, he had the most superb pleasure-houses in the country near Tusculum, adorned with grand galleries and open saloons, as well for the prospect as for walks. Pompey, on a visit there, blamed Lucullus for having made the villa commodious only for the summer, and absolutely uninhabitable in the winter. Lucullus answered with a smile, "What then, do you think I have not so much sense as the cranes and storks, which change their habitations with the seasons?"

A praetor, who wanted to exhibit magnificent games, applied to Lucullus for some purple robes for the chorus in his tragedy; he told him, he would enquire, whether he could furnish him or not. Next day he asked him, how many he wanted. The praetor answered, "a hundred would be sufficient:" Upon which Lucullus said, "he might have twice that number if he pleased." The poet Horace makes this remark on the occasion,

*Poor is the house where plenty has not stores
That miss the master's eye——*

* Plutarch's philosophy seems a little too severe on this occasion; for it is not easy to see how public fortunes of this kind can be more properly laid out than in the encouragement of the arts. It is to be observed however, that the immense wealth Lucullus reserved to himself in his Asiatic expedition, in some measure justifies the complaints of his army on that occasion.

† This refers to the hills Lucullus bored for the completion of his vaults, or for the admission of water. Xerxes had bored through mount Athos, and made a passage under it for his ships.

His

His daily repasts were like those of a man suddenly grown rich ; pompous, not only in the beds, which were covered with purple carpets, the side boards of plate set with precious stones, and all the entertainment which musicians and comedians could furnish ; but in the vast variety and exquisite dressing of the provisions. These things excited the admiration of men of unenlarged minds. Pompey, therefore, was highly applauded for the answer he gave his physician, in a fit of sickness. The physician had ordered him to eat a thrush*, and his servants told him, " That as it was summer, there were no thrushes to be found except in the menageries of Lucullus." But he would not suffer them to apply for them there ; and said to his physician, " Must Pompey then have died, if Lucullus had not been an epicure ?" At the same time he bade them provide him something which was to be had without difficulty.

Cato, though he was a friend, as well as relation, to Lucullus, was so much displeased with the luxury in which he lived, that when a young man made a long and unseasonable speech in the house about frugality and temperance, Cato rose up and said, " Will you never have done ? Do you, who have the wealth of Crassus, and live like Lucullus, pretend to speak like Cato ?" But some, though they allow that there was such a rebuke, say it came from another person.

That Lucullus was not only delighted with this way of living, but even piqued himself upon it, appears from several of his remarkable sayings. He entertained for a considerable time some Greeks who had travelled to Rome ; till remembering the simplicity of diet in their own country, they were ashamed

* The Greek *χιχλη*, also signifies a sea-fish, as appears from Aristotle and Athenaeus ; and it is not easy to say which is here meant : For Lucullus was no less curious in his fish-ponds than in his aviaries ; and by admitting the salt-water into them, could be supplied with every species through every season.

to wait on him any longer, and desired to be excused on account of the daily expence they brought upon him. He smiled and said, "It is true, my Grecian friends, some part of this provision is for you; but the greatest part is for Lucullus." Another time, when he happened to sup alone, and saw but one table and a very moderate provision, he called the servant who had the care of these matters, and expressed his dissatisfaction. The servant said he thought, as nobody was invited, his master would not want an expensive supper. "What!" said he, "didst thou not know that this evening Lucullus sups with Lucullus?" As this was the subject of much conversation in Rome, Cicero and Pompey addressed him one day in the Forum, when he appeared to be perfectly disengaged. Cicero was one of his most intimate friends, and though he had had some difference with Pompey about the command of the army, yet they used to see each other and converse freely and familiarly. Cicero, after the common salutations, asked him, "Whether he was at leisure to see company?" He answered, "Nothing could be more agreeable," and pressed them to come to his house. "Then we will wait on you," said Cicero, "this evening, on condition you give us nothing but what is provided for yourself." Lucullus made some difficulty of accepting the condition, and desired them to put off their favour till another day. But they insisted, it should be that very evening, and would not suffer him to speak to his servants, lest he should order some addition to the supper. Only, at his request, they allowed him to tell one of them in their presence, "he should sup that evening in the Apollo;" which was the name of one of his most magnificent rooms. The persons invited had no notion of his stratagem; but, it seems, each of his dining-rooms had its particular allowance for provisions, and service of plate, as well as other furniture. So that the servants hearing what
room

room he would sup in, knew very well what expence they were to go to, and what side-board and carpets they were to use. The stated charge of an entertainment in the Apollo, was fifty thousand drachmas, and the whole sum was laid out that evening. Pompey, of course when he saw so vast and expensive a provision, was surpris'd at the expedition with which it was prepared. In this respect, Lucullus used his riches with all the disregard one might expect to be shewn to so many captives and barbarians.

But the great expence he incurred in collecting books, deserves a serious approbation. The number of volumes was great, and they were written in elegant hands; yet the use he made of them was more honourable than the acquisition. His libraries were open to all: the Greeks repaired at pleasure to the galleries and porticos, as to the retreat of the Muses, and there spent whole days in conversation on matters of learning; delighted to retire to such a scene from business and from care. Lucullus himself often joined these learned men in their walks, and conferred with them; and when he was applied to about the affairs of their country, he gave them his assistance and advice. So that his house was in fact an asylum and senate-house to all the Greeks that visited Rome.

He had a veneration for philosophy in general, and there was no sect which he absolutely rejected. But his principal and original attachment was to the Academy; not that which is called the new, though that flourished and was supported by Philo, who walked in the steps of Caneades; but the old Academy, whose doctrines were then taught by Antiochus of Ascalon, a man of the most persuasive powers. Lucullus sought his friendship with great avidity; and having prevailed with him to give him his company, set him to oppose the disciples of Philo. Cicero was of that number, and wrote an ingenious book against the old Academy, in which he makes Lucullus defend the principal doctrine in dispute, namely,

namely, that there is such a thing as certain knowledge, and himself maintains the contrary. The book is entitled Lucullus. They were, indeed, as we have observed, sincere friends, and acted upon the same principle in the administration. For Lucullus had not entirely abandoned the concerns of government; he only gave up the point as to the first influence and direction. The contest for that, he saw might be attended not only with danger but disgrace, and therefore he soon left it to Crassus and Cato. When he had refused to take the lead, those who looked upon the power of Pompey with a suspicious eye, pitched upon Crassus and Cato to support the patrician interests. Lucullus, notwithstanding, gave his attendance in the Forum, when the business of his friends required it; and he did the same in the senate-house, when there was any ambitious design of Pompey to combat. He got Pompey's orders annulled, which he had made after the conquest of the two kings; and, with the assistance of Cato, threw out his bill for a distribution * of lands among his veterans.

This threw Pompey into the arms of Crassus and Caesar, or rather he conspired with them against the commonwealth; and having filled the city with soldiers, drove Cato and Lucullus out of the Forum, and got his acts established by force.

As these proceedings were highly resented by all who had the interest of their country at heart, Pompey's party instructed one Vectius † to act a part; and

* Plutarch says simply *νεμῆσαι τινα*, a certain distribution. Amiot and Dacier say, it was of money. But we agree with the Latin and former English translator, that it was of lands. Indeed, this appears to have been the case, from the ancient historians; who inform us, that it was in the same bill that Pompey moved to have all his acts in the East confirmed, and a distribution of lands made among his veterans.

† In the text it is *Βρεττίου τινα*, one Brettius, or a certain Brutian. But it is clear from Cicero, Appian, and Dion, that it should be read Vectius. The alteration is very easy from *Βρεττίου* to *Βεττίου*.

gave it out that they had detected him in a design against Pompey's life. When Vectius was examined in the senate, he said it was at the instigation of others; but in the assembly of the people he affirmed, Lucullus was the man who put him upon it. No one gave credit to the assertion; and a few days after, it was very evident that the wretch was suborned to accuse an innocent man, when his dead body was thrown out of the prison. Pompey's party said, he had laid violent hands upon himself; but the marks of the cord that had strangled him, and of the blows he had received, shewed plainly that he was killed by the persons who suborned him.

This event made Lucullus still more unwilling to interfere in the concerns of government; and when Cicero was banished, and Cato sent to Cyprus, he quitted them entirely. It is said, that his understanding gradually failed, and that before his death it was absolutely gone. Cornelius Nepos, indeed, asserts, that this failure of his intellects was not owing to sickness or old age, but to a potion given him by an enfranchised slave of his, named Callisthenes. Nor did Callisthenes give it him as poison, but as a love-potion. However, instead of conciliating his master's regards to him, it deprived him of his senses; so that, during the last years of his life, his brother had the care of his estate.

Nevertheless, when he died, he was as much regretted by the people, as if he had departed in that height of glory, to which his merit in war and in the administration had raised him. They crowded to the procession; and the body being carried into the *Forum* by some young men of the first quality, they insisted, it should be buried in the *Campus Martius*, as that of Sylla had been. As this was a motion entirely unexpected, and the preparations for the funeral there could not easily be made, his brother with much entreaty prevailed with them, to have
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the obsequies performed on the Tusculan estate, where every thing was provided for that purpose. Nor did he long survive him. As he had followed him close in the course of years and honours, so he was not far behind him in his journey to the grave; to which he bore the character of the best and most affectionate of brothers.

CIMON

CIMON *and* LUCULLUS *compared.*

WE cannot but think the exit of Lucullus happy, as he did not live to see that change in the constitution, which fate was preparing for his country in the civil wars. Though the commonwealth was in a sickly state, yet he left it free. In this respect the case of Cimon was particularly similar. For he died while Greece was at the height of her prosperity, and before she was involved in those troubles which proved so fatal to her. It is true there is this difference; Cimon died in his camp, in the office of general; not like a man, who fatigued with war, and avoiding its conflicts, sought the reward of his military labours and of the laurels he had won, in the delicacies of the table and the joys of wine. In this view Plato * was right in his censure of the followers of Orpheus, who had placed the rewards of futurity provided for the good, in everlasting intoxication. No doubt, ease, tranquillity, literary researches, and the pleasures of contemplation, furnish the most suitable re-

* The passage here alluded to is in the second book of Plato's Republic. Plato censures not Orpheus, but Musaeus and his son, for teaching this doctrine. Musaeus and his son Eumolpus were, however, disciples of Orpheus; and τῆς περὶ τοῦ Ὀρφέως may admit of that interpretation.

treat for a man in years, who has bid adieu to military and political pursuits. But to propose pleasure as the end of great achievements, and after long expeditions and commands, to lead up the dance of Venus and riot in her smiles, was so far from being worthy of the famed Academy, and a follower of the sage Xenocrates, that it rather became a disciple of Epicurus. This is the more surprising, because Cimon seems to have spent his youth in luxury and dissipation, and Lucullus in letters and sobriety. It is certainly another thing notwithstanding to change for the better, and happier is the nature in which vices gradually die, and virtue flourishes.

They were equally wealthy, but did not apply their riches to the same purposes. For we cannot compare the palace at Naples, and the Belvideres amidst the water which Lucullus erected with the barbarian spoils, to the south wall of the citadel which Cimon built with the treasure he brought from the wars. Nor can the sumptuous table of Lucullus, which favoured too much of eastern magnificence, be put in competition with the open and benevolent table of Cimon. The one, at a moderate charge, daily nourished great numbers of poor; the other, at a vast expence, pleased the appetites of a few of the rich and the voluptuous. Perhaps, indeed, some allowance must be made for the difference of the time. We know not, whether Cimon, if he had lived to be old, and retired from the concerns of war and of the state, might not have given into a more pompous and luxurious way of living: for he naturally loved wine and company, was a promoter of public feasts and games, and remarkable, as we have observed, for his inclination for the sex. But glorious enterprises and great actions being attended with pleasures of another kind, leave no leisure for inferior gratifications; nay, they banish them from the thoughts of persons of great abilities for the field and the cabinet. And if Lucullus had
finished

finished his days in high commands and amidst the conflicts of war, I am persuaded, the most envious caviller could have found nothing to reproach him with. So much with respect to their way of living.

As to their military character, it is certain they were able commanders both at sea and land. But as the champions, who in one day gain the garland not only in wrestling but in the *Pancration* *, are not simply called victors, but by the custom of the games †, *the flowers of the victory*; so Cimon, having crowned Greece with two victories gained in one day, the one at land, the other a naval one, deserves some preference in the list of generals.

Lucullus was indebted to his country for his power, and Cimon promoted the power of his country. The one found Rome commanding the allies, and under her auspices extended her conquests; the other found Athens obeying, instead of commanding, and yet gained her the chief authority among her allies, as well as conquered her enemies. The Persians he defeated, and drove them out of the sea, and he persuaded the Lacedaemonians voluntarily to surrender the command.

If it be the greatest work of a general, to bring his men to obey him from a principle of affection, we

* The Pancration consisted of boxing and wrestling together.

† Ὡς περ δὲ τῶν ἀθλητῶν τῆς ἡμέρας μίαν πάλιν μίαν καὶ πανκρατίαν
 εἰσφαινομένης, εἴη τινι παραδοξῶ νίκας καλεῖται. —

Here the second *μία* is visibly redundant, and therefore some other part of the passage may probably be corrupted. Henry Stephens conjectures, that instead of *παραδοξῶ νίκας* we should read in one word *παραδοξονίκας*, and Salvini says he found the term in an ancient inscription. Dacier, when he proposes to read *περιοδονίκας*, *conquerors in the whole circle of games*, seems, by confounding it with the Pentathlon, to have forgot what the Pancration was. The Pentathlon, or five games, were boxing, the race, leaping, playing at quoits, and wrestling. Dacier's words are these—“Cinq combats composoient ce qu'on appelloit le Pancrace, dont les Athletes étoient appelées Pentathles.” But in fact, as we have observed above, the Pancration consisted only of two of the five united.

shall find Lucullus greatly deficient in this respect. He was despised by his own troops, whereas Cimon commanded the veneration, not only of his own soldiers, but of all the allies. The former was deserted by his own, and the latter was courted by strangers. The one set out with a fine army, and returned alone, abandoned by that army; the other went out with troops subject to the orders they should receive from another general, and at his return they were at the head of the whole league. Thus he gained three of the most difficult points imaginable, peace with the enemy, the lead among the allies, and a good understanding with Sparta.

They both attempted to conquer great kingdoms, and to subdue all Asia, but their purposes were unsuccessful. Cimon's course was stopt by fortune; he died with his commission in his hand, and in the height of his prosperity. Lucullus, on the other hand, cannot possibly be excused, as to the loss of his authority, since he must either have been ignorant of the grievances of his army, which ended in so incurable an aversion, or unwilling to redress them.

This he has in common with Cimon, that he was impeached by his countrymen. The Athenians, it is true went farther; they banished Cimon by the ostracism, that they might not, as Plato expresses it, hear his voice for ten years. Indeed, the proceedings of the aristocratical party are seldom acceptable to the people; for while they are obliged to use some violence for the correction of what is amiss, their measures resemble the bandages of surgeons, which are uneasy at the same time that they reduce the dislocation. But in this respect perhaps we may exculpate both the one and the other.

Lucullus carried his arms much the farthest. He was the first who led a Roman army over Mount Taurus, and passed the Tigris. He took and burnt the royal cities of Asia, Tigranocerta, Cabira, Sinope, Nisibis, in the sight of their respective kings.
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On the north he penetrated as far as the Phasis, on the east to Media, and on the south to the Red Sea, by the favour and assistance of the princes of Arabia. He overthrew the armies of the two great kings, and would certainly have taken them, had they not fled, like savages, into distant solitudes and inaccessible woods. A certain proof of the advantage Lucullus has in this respect is, that the Persians, as if they had suffered nothing from Cimon, soon made head against the Greeks, and cut in pieces a great army of theirs in Egypt; whereas Tigranes and Mithridates could effect nothing, after the blow they had received from Lucullus. Mithridates, enfeebled by the conflicts he had undergone, did not once venture to face Pompey in the field: instead of that, he fled to the Bosphorus, and there put a period to his life. As for Tigranes, he delivered himself naked and unarmed to Pompey, took his diadem from his head, and laid it at his feet: in which he complimented Pompey, not with what was his own, but with what belonged to the laurels of Lucullus. The poor prince, by the joy with which he received the ensigns of royalty again, confessed that he had absolutely lost them. However, he must be deemed the greater general, as well as the greater champion, who delivers his adversary weak and breathless, to the next combatant.

Besides, Cimon found the king of Persia extremely weakened, and the pride of his people humbled, by the losses and defeats they had experienced from Themistocles, Pausanias, and Leotychidas; and their hands could not make much resistance when their hearts were gone. But Lucullus met Tigranes fresh and unfoiled, elated and exulting in the battles he had fought and the victories he had won *. Nor
is

* Πληθεὶ δ' ἂν ἄξιον παραθελεῖν τοῖς ἐπὶ Λεκελλῶν συνελθεσὶ τῆς ὑποκίμωνος κρατηθέντας.

M. Dacier thinks, that if, beside the other advantages just mentioned, the advantage be also allowed Lucullus in respect of the number of barbarians he had defeated, the balance must clearly incline to his side.

is the number of the enemy's troops which Cimon defeated, in the least to be compared to that of those who gave battle to Lucullus.

In short, when we weigh all the advantages of each of these great men, it is hard to say to which side the balance inclines. Heaven appears to have favoured both; directing the one to what he should do, and warning the other what he should avoid. So that the gods bore witness to their virtue, and regarded them as persons in whom there was something divine.

But while he says this, he seems to have forgot the preference his author had given Cimon, in respect to his continuing his labours for his country to the last hour of his life; the more excellent use and application of riches; his knowing how to gain and keep the hearts of his soldiers; and his gaining important victories on two different elements in one day.

NICIAS.

N I C I A S.

WE have pitched upon Crassus as a proper person to be put in parallel with Nicias, and the misfortunes which befel the one in Parthia, with those which overtook the other in Sicily. But we have an apology to make to the reader on another account. As we are now undertaking a history, where Thucydides in the pathetic has even outdone himself, and in energy and variety of composition is perfectly inimitable; we hope no one will suspect we have the ambition of Timaeus, who flattered himself he could exceed the power of Thucydides, and make Philistus * pass for an inelegant and ordinary writer. Under the influence of that deception, Timaeus plunges into the midst of the battles both at sea and land, and speeches in which those historians shine the most. However, he soon appears,

Not like a footman by the Lydian car,

as Pindar expresses it, but a shallow puerile writer †, or, to use the words of the poet Diphilus,

——— *A heavy animal*

Cas'd in Sicilian lard———

Sometimes

* Philistus was so able a writer, that Cicero calls him younger Thucydides.

† Timaeus might have his vanity, and if he hoped to excel Thucydides, he certainly had. Yet Cicero and Diodorus speak

Sometimes he falls into the dreams of Xenarchus *: as where he says, " he could not but consider it as a " bad omen for the Athenians, that they had a ge- " neral † with a name derived from victory, who dis- " approved the expedition." As also, " That by the " mutilation of the Hermae, the gods pre-signified " that they should suffer most in the Syracusan war " from Hermocrates the son of Hermon ‡." And again, " It is probable that Hercules assisted the Sy- " racusans, because Proserpine delivered up Cerbe- " rus to him; and that he was offended at the Athe- " nians for supporting the Aegesteans, who were de- " scended from the Trojans his mortal enemies, " whose city he had sacked in revenge for the inju- " ries he had received from Laomedon." He made these fine observations with the same discernment, which put him upon finding fault with the language of Philistus; and censuring the writings of Plato and Aristotle.

For my part, I cannot but think, all emulation and jealousy about expression betrays a littleness of mind, and is the characteristic of a sophist: and when that spirit of contest attempts things inimitable, it is perfectly absurd. Since, therefore, it is impossible to pass over in silence those actions of Nicias which Thucydides and Philistus have recorded; especially such as indicate his manners and disposition, which often lay concealed under the weight of his misfortunes; we shall give an abstract from them of what

of him as a very able historian. Longinus reconciles the censure and the praise. He says, sometimes you find in him the grand and sublime. But, blind to his own defects, he is much inclined to censure others, and is so fond of thinking out of the common road, that he often sinks into the utmost puerility.

* Xenarchus, the Peripatetic, was master to Strabo; and Xenarchus, the comic poet, was author of several pieces of humour: but we know no historian of that name.

† That is, Nicias. *Nice* signifies *victory*.

‡ Longinus quotes this passage as an example of the frigid style, and of those puerilities he had condemned in Timaeus.

appears most necessary, lest we should be accused of negligence or indolence. As for other matters not generally known, which are found scattered in historians, or in ancient inscriptions and decrees, we shall collect them with care; not to gratify an useless curiosity, but, by drawing from them the true lines of this general's character, to serve the purposes of real instruction.

The first thing I shall mention relating to him, is the observation of Aristotle; that three of the most worthy men in Athens, who had a paternal regard and friendship for the people, were Nicias the son of Niceratus, Thucydides the son of Milesias, and Theramenes the son of Agnon. The last, indeed, was not so remarkable in this respect as the other two. For he had been reproached with his birth, as a stranger come from the Isle of Ceos; and from his want of firmness, or rather versatility in matters of government, he was called *the Buskin* *.

Thucydides was the oldest of the three; and when Pericles acted a flattering part to the people, he often opposed him in behalf of the nobility. Though Nicias was much the younger man, he gained some reputation while Pericles lived, insomuch that he was several times his colleague in the war, and often commanded alone. But when Pericles died, he was soon advanced to the head of the administration, particularly by the influence of the rich and great, who hoped he would prove a barrier against the daring insolence of Cleon. He had, however, the good wishes of the people, and they contributed their share to his advancement.

It is true, Cleon had considerable interest, which he gained by making his court to the old men, and by his frequent donations to the poor citizens. Yet even many of those whom he studied to oblige, see-

* The form of the buskin was such that it might be worn indifferently on either leg.

ing his avarice and effrontery, came over to Nicias. For the gravity of Nicias had nothing austere or morose in it, but was mixed with a reverence for the people in which fear seemed to be prevalent, and consequently was very agreeable to them. Indeed, he was naturally timid and cold-hearted; but this defect was concealed by the long course of success with which fortune favoured his expeditions. And his timidity in the assemblies of the people, and dread of persons who made a trade of impeachments, was a popular thing. It contributed not a little to gain him the regards of the multitude, who are afraid of those that despise them, and love to promote those that fear them; because in general the greatest honour they can hope to obtain, is not to be despised by the great.

As Pericles kept the reins of government in his hands, by means of real virtue, and by the force of his eloquence, he had no need to hold out false colours, or to use any artifice with the people. Nicias was deficient in those great endowments, but had superior riches; and he applied them to the purposes of popularity. On another hand, he could not, like Cleon, divert and draw the people by an easy manner and the fallies of buffoonery: and therefore he amused them with the chorusses of tragedy, with gymnastic exercises, and such like exhibitions, which far exceeded, in point of magnificence and elegance, all that went before him, and those of his own times too. Two of his offerings to the gods are to be seen at this day; the one a statue of Pallas dedicated in the citadel, which has lost part of its gilding; the other a small chapel in the temple of Bacchus, under the tripods which are commonly offered up by those who gain the prize in tragedy. Indeed, Nicias was already victorious in those exhibitions. It is said, that in a chorus of that kind, one of his slaves appeared in the character of Bacchus. The slave was of an uncommon size and beauty, but had not yet arrived
at

at maturity: and the people were so charmed with him, that they gave him long plaudits. At last, Nicias rose up and said, " He should think it an act of impiety to retain a person in servitude, who seemed by the public voice to be consecrated to a god:" and he enfranchised him upon the spot.

His regulations with respect to Delos, are still spoken of, as worthy of the deity who presides there. Before his time, the choirs * which the cities sent to sing the praises of Apollo, landed in a disorderly manner, because the inhabitants of the island used to run up to the ship, and press them to sing before they were disembarked; so that they were forced to strike up, as they were putting on their robes and garlands. But when Nicias had the conduct of this ceremony, known by the name of Theoria, he landed first in the isle of Rhenia with the choir, the victims, and all the other necessary preparations. He had taken care to have a bridge constructed before he left Athens, which should reach from that isle to Delos, and which was magnificently gilded, and adorned with garlands, rich stuffs, and tapestry. In the night he threw his bridge over the channel, which was not large; and at break of day he marched over it at the head of the procession, with his choir richly habited, and singing hymns to the god. After the sacrifices, the games, and banquets were over, he consecrated a palm-tree of brass to Apollo, and likewise a field which he had purchased for ten thousand drachmas. The Delians were to lay out the income in sacrifices and feasting, and at the same time to pray for Apollo's blessing upon the founder. This is inscribed on a pillar, which he left in Delos as a monument of his benefaction. As for the palm-tree, it was broken by the winds, and the fragment falling

* There was a select band of music annually sent by the principal cities of Greece. The procession was called Theoria, and it was looked upon as an honourable commission to have the management of it.

upon a great statue * which the people of Naxos had set up, demolished it.

It is obvious that most of these things were done for ostentation, and with a view to popularity. Nevertheless, we may collect from the rest of his life and conduct, that religion had the principal share in these dedications, and that popularity was but a secondary motive. For he certainly was remarkable for his fear of the gods, and, as Thucydides observes, he was pious to a degree of superstition †. It is related in the dialogues of Pasiphon, that he sacrificed every day, and that he had a diviner in his house, who in appearance enquired the success of the public affairs, but in reality was much oftener consulted about his own; particularly as to the success of his silver mines in the borough of Laurium; which in general afforded a large revenue, but were not worked without danger. He maintained there a multitude of slaves; and the greatest part of his fortune consisted in silver. So that he had many retainers, who asked favours, and were not sent away empty. For he gave not only to those who deserved his bounty, but to such as might be able to do him harm; and bad men found resources in his fears, as well as good men in his liberality. The comic poets bear witness to what I have advanced. Teleclides introduces a trading informer speaking thus, "Chari-cles would not give one *mina*, to prevent my declaring that he was the first-fruits of his mother's amours; but Nicias, the son of Niceratus, gave me four. Why he did it, I shall not say, though I know it perfectly well. For Nicias is my friend, a very wise man besides, in my opinion." Eupolis, in his *Marica*, brings another informer upon the

* A statue which the Naxians had dedicated to Apollo. The pedestal has been discovered by some modern travellers.

† Thucyd. L. vii.

stage, who meets with some poor ignorant man, and thus addresses him—

Informer. "How long is it since you saw Nicias?"

Poor man. "I never saw him before this moment, when he stood in the market-place."

Informer. "Take notice, my friends, the man
"confesses he has seen Nicias. And for what
"purpose could he see him, but to sell him his
"vote? Nicias, therefore, is plainly taken in
"the fact."

Poet. "Ah fools! do you think you can ever per-
"suade the world, that so good a man as Nicias
"was taken in mal-practices."

Cleon in Aristophanes, says in a menacing tone,
"I will out-bawl the orators, and make Nicias*
"tremble." And Phrynichus glances at his excessive
timidity, when speaking of another person, he says,
"I know him to be an honest man and a good citi-
"zen, one who does not walk the streets with a
"downcast look like Nicias."

With this fear of informers upon him, he would
not sup or discourse with any of the citizens, or come
into any of those parties which make the time pass
so agreeably. When he was archon he used to stay
in court till night, being always the first that came,
and the last that went away. When he had no pub-
lic business upon his hands, he shut himself up at
home, and was extremely difficult of access. And
if any persons came to the gate, his friends went and
begged them to excuse Nicias, because he had some
affairs under consideration which were of great im-
portance to the state.

The person who assisted him most in acting this
farce, and gaining him the reputation of a man for
ever intent upon business, was one Hiero, who was
brought up in his house, had a liberal education,

* This is in the Equites of Aristophanes, v. 357. It is not
Cleon, but Agoracritus who speaks.

and a taste of music given him there. He passed himself for the son of Dionysius surnamed Chalcus, some of whose poems are still extant, and who, having conducted a colony into Italy, founded the city of Thurii. This Hiero transacted all the private business of Nicias with the diviners : and whenever he came among the people, he used to tell them, " What a laborious and miserable life Nicias led for their sakes. He cannot go to the bath, said he, or to the table, but some affair of state solicits his attention ; and he neglects his own concerns to take care of the public. He can scarcely find time for repose, till the other citizens have had their first sleep. Amidst these cares and labours his health declines daily, and his temper is so broken that his friends no longer approach him with pleasure ; but he loses them too, after having spent his fortune in your service. Meanwhile other statesmen gain friends, and grow rich in their employments, and are sleek and merry in the steerage of government."

In fact the life of Nicias was a life of so much care, that he might have justly applied to himself that expression of Agamemnon,

*In vain the glare of pomp proclaims me master ;
I'm servant of the people——*

Nicias perceived that the commons availed themselves of the services of those who were distinguished for their eloquence or capacity ; but that they were always jealous and on their guard against their great abilities, and that they endeavoured to humble them and obstruct their progress in glory. This appeared in the condemnation of Pericles, the banishment of Damon, the suspicions they entertained of Antipho the Rhamnusian, but above all, in the despair of Paches who had taken Lesbos, and who being called to give an account of his conduct, drew his sword and killed himself in open court.

Warned

Warned by these examples, he endeavoured to avoid such expeditions as he thought long and difficult; and when he did take the command, he made it his business to proceed upon a sure plan. For this reason he was generally successful: yet he ascribed his success to fortune, and took refuge under the wings of the divinity; contenting himself with a smaller portion of honour, lest envy should rob him of the whole.

The event shewed the prudence of his conduct. For, though the Athenians received many great blows in those times, none of them could be imputed to Nicias. When they were defeated by the Chalcideans in Thrace, Calliades* and Xenophon had the command; Demosthenes was general, when they miscarried in Etolia; and when they lost a thousand men at Delium†, they were under the conduct of Hippocrates. As for the plague, it was commonly thought to be occasioned by Pericles; who, to draw the burghers out of the way of the war, shut them up in the city, where they contracted the sickness by the change of situation and diet.

None of these misfortunes were imputed to Nicias. On the contrary, he took Cythera, an island well situated for annoying Laconia, and at that time inhabited by Lacedaemonians. He recovered many places in Thrace, which had revolted from the Athenians. He shut up the Megarensians within their walls, and reduced the island of Minoa. From thence he made an excursion soon after, and got possession of the port of Nisaea. He likewise made a descent upon the territories of Corinth, beat the troops of that state in a pitched battle, and killed

* Perhaps, we should read Callias. See Menag. on Diog. Laert. ii. 45.

† Delium in Boeotia. Delos, the common reading, is undoubtedly wrong. The Athenians had no such loss there. But their defeat at Delium is related at large by Thucydides. L. iv.

great numbers of them: Lycophron their general was among the slain.

He happened to leave there the bodies of two of his men, who were missed in carrying off the dead. But as soon as he knew it, he stopped his course, and sent a herald to the enemy, to ask leave to take away those bodies. This he did, though there was a law and custom subsisting, by which those who desire a treaty for carrying off the dead, give up the victory, and are not at liberty to erect a trophy. And indeed, those who are so far masters of the field, that the enemy cannot bury their dead without permission, appear to be conquerors, because no man would ask that as a favour which he could command. Nicias, however, chose rather to lose his laurels, than to leave two of his countrymen unburied *.

After he had ravaged the coast of Laconia, and defeated the Lacedaemonians who attempted to oppose him, he took the fortrefs of Thyraea †, then held by the Aeginetae, made the garrison prisoners, and carried them to Athens. Demosthenes ‡ having fortified Pylos, the Peloponnesians besieged it both by sea and land. A battle ensued, in which they were worsted, and about four hundred Spartans threw themselves into the isle of Sphacteria. The taking

* The burying of the dead was a duty of great importance in the heathen world. The fable of the ghost of an unburied person not being allowed to pass the Styx, is well known. About eight years after the death of Nicias, the Athenians put six of their generals to death, for not interring those soldiers that were slain in the battle of Arginusae.

† Thyraea was a fort situated between Laconia and the territory of the Argives. It belonged of right to the Lacedaemonians, but they gave it to the Aeginetae, who had been expelled their country.

‡ The Peloponnesians and their allies had entered Attica under the conduct of Agis the son of Archidamas, and ravaged the country. Demosthenes, the Athenian general, made a diversion by seizing and fortifying Pylos. This brought Agis back to the defence of his own country. THUCYD. L. iv.

of them seemed, and indeed was, an important object to the Athenians. But the siege was difficult, because there was no water to be had upon the spot, and it was troublesome and expensive to get convoys thither; in summer they were obliged to take a long circuit, and in winter it was absolutely impracticable. They were much perplexed about the affair, and repented their refusing the terms of peace which the Lacedaemonians had offered by their ambassadors.

It was through Cleon that the embassy did not take effect; he opposed the peace because Nicias was for it. Cleon was his mortal enemy, and seeing him countenance the Lacedaemonians, persuaded the people to reject their propositions by a formal decree. But when they found that the siege was drawn out to a great length, and that there was almost a famine in their camp, they expressed their resentment against Cleon. Cleon, for his part, laid the blame upon Nicias; alledging that if the enemy escaped, it must be through his slow and timid operations: "Had I been the general," said he, "they could not have held out so long." The Athenians readily answered, "Why do you not go now against those Spartans?" And Nicias rose up and declared, "he would freely give up to him the command in the affair of Pylos; bade him take what forces he pleased; and, instead of shewing his courage in words, where there was no danger, go and perform some actions worthy the attention of his country."

Cleon, disconcerted with the unexpected offer, declined it at first. But when he found the Athenians insisted upon it, and that Nicias took this advantage to raise a clamour against him, his pride was hurt, and he was incensed to such a degree, that he not only undertook the expedition, but declared, "he would in twenty days either put the enemy to the sword, or bring them alive to Athens."

The

The people * laughed at his declaration, instead of giving it any credit. Indeed, they had long been accustomed to divert themselves with the fallies of his vanity. One day, for instance, when a general assembly was to be held, they had sat waiting for him a long time. At last he came, when their patience was almost spent, with a garland on his head, and desired them to adjourn to the day following: "For to-day," says he, "I am not at leisure; I have strangers to entertain, and I have sacrificed to the gods." The Athenians only laughed, and immediately rose up and dismissed the assembly.

Cleon, however, was so much favoured by fortune in this commission, that he acquitted himself better than any one since Demosthenes. He returned within the time he had fixed, after he had made all the Spartans who did not fall in battle, deliver up their arms, and brought them prisoners to Athens.

This reflected no small disgrace upon Nicias. It was considered as something worse than throwing away his shield, meanly to quit his command, and to give his enemy an opportunity of distinguishing himself by his abdication. Hence Aristophanes ridicules him in his comedy called *The Birds*. "By heaven, this is no time for us to slumber, or to imitate the lazy operations of Nicias." And in his piece entitled *The Husbandman*, he introduces two Athenians discoursing thus—

1st Athenian. *I had rather stay at home and till the ground.*

2d Athenian. *And who binders thee?*

1st Athenian. *You hinder me. And yet I am willing to pay a thousand drachmas to be excused taking the commission.*

* The wiser sort hoped either to have the pleasure of seeing the Lacedaemonians brought prisoners to Athens, or else of getting rid of the importunate pretensions of Cleon.

2d Athenian. *Let us see. Your thousand drachmas, with those of Nicias, will make two thousand. We will excuse you.*

Nicias, in this affair, was not only unjust to himself, but to the state. He suffered Cleon by this means to gain such an ascendancy, as led him to a degree of pride and effrontery that was insupportable. Many evils were thus brought upon the commonwealth, of which Nicias himself had his full share. We cannot but consider it as one great corruption, that Cleon now banished all decorum from the general assembly. It was he who in his speeches first broke out into violent exclamations, threw back his robes, smote upon his thigh, and ran from one end of the *rostrum* to the other. This soon introduced such a licentiousness and disregard to decency among those who directed the affairs of state, that it threw the whole government into confusion.

At this time there sprung up another orator at Athens. This was Alcibiades. He did not prove so totally corrupt as Cleon. As it is said of the land of Egypt, that, on account of its extreme fertility,

*There plenty sows the fields with herbs salubrious,
But scatters many a baneful weed between;*

so in Alcibiades there were very different qualities, but all in extremes; and these extremes opened a door to many innovations. So that when Nicias got clear of Cleon, he had no time to establish any lasting tranquillity in Athens: but as soon as he had gotten things into a safe track, the ambition of Alcibiades came upon him like a torrent, and bore him back into the storms of war.

It happened thus. The persons who most opposed the peace of Greece, were Cleon and Brasidas. War helped to hide the vices of the former, and to shew the good qualities of the latter. Cleon found opportunity for acts of injustice and oppression, and Brasidas for great and glorious actions. But after they

they both fell in the battle near Amphipolis, Nicias applied to the Lacedaemonians on one hand, who had been for some time desirous of peace, and to the Athenians on the other, now no longer so warm in the pursuits of war. In fact, both parties were tired of hostilities, and ready to let their weapons drop out of their hands. Nicias, therefore, used his endeavours to reconcile them, and indeed to deliver all the Greeks from the calamities they had suffered, to bring them to taste the sweets of repose, and to re-establish a long and lasting reign of happiness. He immediately found the rich, the aged, and all that were employed in the culture of the ground, disposed to peace; and by addressing himself to the rest, and expostulating with them respectively, he soon abated their ardour for war.

His next step was to give the Spartans hopes of an accommodation, and to exhort them to propose such measures as might effect it. They readily confided in him, because they knew the goodness of his heart; of which there was a late instance in his humane treatment of their countrymen who were taken prisoners at Pylos, and who found their chains greatly lightened by his good offices.

They had already agreed to a suspension of arms for one year; during which time they often met, and enjoyed again the pleasures of ease and security, the company of strangers as well as nearer friends; and expressed their mutual wishes for the continuance of a life undisturbed with the horrors of war. It was with great delight they heard the chorus in such strains as this;

*Arachne freely now has leave
Her webs around my spear to weave.*

They recollected with pleasure the saying, "that
"in time of peace men are awaked not by the sound
"of the trumpet, but the crowing of the cock."
They execrated those who said, it was decreed by
fate

fate that the war should last three times nine years *; and this free intercourse leading them to canvas every point, they at last signed the peace †.

It was now the general opinion, that they were at the end of all their troubles. Nothing was talked of but Nicias. He, they said, was a man beloved of the gods, who, in recompense of his piety, had thought proper, that the greatest and most desirable of all blessings should bear his name. It is certain, they ascribed the peace to Nicias, as they did the war to Pericles. And indeed, the one did plunge them upon slight pretences into numberless calamities, and the other persuaded them to bury the greatest of injuries in oblivion, and to unite again as friends. It is therefore, called the *Nicean* ‡ peace to this very day.

It was agreed in the articles, that both parties should restore the towns and the prisoners they had taken; and it was to be determined by lot, which of them should do it first: but, according to Theophrastus, Nicias secured the lot by dint of money, so that the Lacedaemonians were forced to lead the way. As the Corinthians and Boeotians were displeased at these proceedings, and endeavoured, by sowing jealousies between the contracting powers, to renew the war, Nicias persuaded the Athenians and Lacedaemonians to confirm the peace, and to support each other, by a league offensive and defensive. This, he expected would intimidate those who were inclined to fly off.

* “ I remember,” says Thucydides, “ that throughout the whole war many maintained it was to last three times nine years. And if we reckon the first ten years of the war, the truce very short and ill observed that followed it, the treatise ill executed, and the war that was renewed thereupon, we shall find the oracle fully justified by the event.” Thucyd. L. v.

† Peace for fifty years was agreed upon and signed the year following; but it was soon broken again.

‡ The word in the original is Νικησιον, which is equivalent to Τροπαιον, *Trophy*. As much as to say, it was the trophy, or the master-piece of Nicias.

During these transactions, Alcibiades at first made it his business privately to oppose the peace. For he was naturally averse to inaction, and was moreover offended at the Lacedaemonians, on account of their attachment to Nicias, and their neglect and disregard of him. But when he found this private opposition ineffectual, he took another method. In a little time he saw the Athenians did not look upon the Lacedaemonians with so obliging an eye as before, because they thought themselves injured by the alliance which their new friends had entered into with the Boeotians, and because they had not delivered up Panactus and Amphipolis in the condition they found them. He therefore dwelt upon these points, and endeavoured to inflame the people's resentment. Besides, he persuaded, and at last prevailed upon the republic of Argos to send an embassy, for the purposes of negotiating a treaty with the Athenians.

When the Lacedaemonians had intelligence of this, they sent ambassadors to Athens with full powers to settle all matters in dispute. These plenipotentiaries were introduced to the senate, and their proposals seemed perfectly just and reasonable. Alcibiades, upon this, fearing they would gain the people by the same overtures, circumvented them by perfidious oaths and asseverations; "promising he would secure
" the success of their commission, if they would not
" declare that they came with full powers; and
" assuring them, that no other method would be so
" effectual." They gave credit to his insinuations, and went over from Nicias to him.

Upon introducing them to the people, the first question he asked them was, "Whether they came
" with full powers?" They denied it, as they were instructed. Then Alcibiades, beyond all their expectation, changing sides, called the senate to bear witness to their former declarations, and desired the people "not to give the least credit or attention to
" such

"such manifest prevaricators, who upon the same point asserted one thing one day, and another thing the next." Their confusion was inexpressible, as may well be imagined, and Nicias was struck dumb with grief and astonishment. The people of course sent immediately for the deputies of Argos, to conclude the treaty with them. But at that very moment there happened a slight shock of an earthquake, which, favourably for Nicias, broke up the assembly.

Next day they assembled again; and Nicias, by exerting all his powers, with much difficulty prevailed upon them not to put the last hand to the league with Argos; but, instead of that, to send him to Sparta *, where he assured them all would be well. When he arrived there, he was treated with great respect, as a man of honour, and one who had shewn that republic great friendship: however, as the party that favoured the Boeotians † was the strongest, he could effect nothing. He returned, therefore, not only with disrepute and disgrace, but was apprehensive of worse consequences from the Athenians, who were greatly chagrined and provoked, that, at his persuasion, they had set free so many prisoners, and prisoners of such distinction. For those brought from Pylos, were of the first families in Sparta, and had connections with the greatest personages there. Notwithstanding this, they did not express their resentment in any act of severity; they only elected Alcibiades general, and took the Mantineans and Eleans, who had quitted the Lacedaemonian interest, into league with them, along with the Argives. They then sent a marauding party to Pylos, from thence to make excursions into Laconia. Thus the war broke out afresh.

* There were others joined in commission with him.

† Nicias insisted that the Spartans should renounce their alliance with the Boeotians, because they had not acceded to the peace.

As the quarrel between Nicias and Alcibiades rose daily to a greater height, the ostracism was proposed. To this the people have recourse at certain periods, and by it they expel for ten years any one who is suspected for his authority, or envied for his wealth. Both parties were greatly alarmed at the danger, not doubting that it would fall to the lot of one of them. The Athenians detested the life and manners of Alcibiades, and at the same time they dreaded his enterprising spirit; as we have related more at large in his life. As for Nicias, his riches exposed him to envy, and the rather, because there was nothing social or popular in his manner of living; on the contrary, his reclusive turn seemed owing to an inclination for oligarchy, and perfectly in a foreign taste. Besides, he had combated their opinions, and by making them pursue their own interest against their inclination, was of course become obnoxious. In one word, the whole was a dispute between the young who wanted war, and the old who were lovers of peace. The former endeavoured to make the ostracism fall upon Nicias, and the latter on Alcibiades.

But in seditions bad men rise to honour.

The Athenians being divided into two factions, the subtlest and most profligate of wretches gained ground. Such was Hyperbolus of the ward of Perithois; a man whose boldness was not owing to any well-grounded influence, but whose influence was owing to his boldness; and who disgraced the city by the credit he had acquired.

This wretch had no apprehensions of banishment by the honourable suffrage of the ostracism, because he knew himself fitter for a gibbet. Hoping, however, that if one of these great men were banished, he should be able to make head against the other, he dissembled not his joy at this spirit of party, but strove to exasperate the people against both. Nicias and Alcibiades taking notice of his malice, came to a
private

private interview, in which they agreed to unite their interests; and by that means avoided the ostracism themselves, and turned it upon Hyperbolus.

At first the people were pleased, and laughed at the strange turn things had taken; but upon recollection, it gave them great uneasiness to think that the ostracism was dishonoured by its falling upon a person unworthy of it. They were persuaded, there was a dignity in that punishment; or rather, that to such men as Thucydides and Aristides it was a punishment; whereas to Hyperbolus it was an honour which he might be proud of, since his profligacy had put him on the same list with the greatest patriots. Hence Plato, the comic poet, thus speaks of him, "No doubt, his crimes deserved chastisement, but a very different chastisement from that which he received. The shell was not designed for such wretches as he."

In fact, no one afterwards was banished by it. He was the last, and Hipparchus the Cholargian, a relation of the Tyrant, was the first. From this event it appears how intricate are the ways of fortune, how incomprehensible to human reason. Had Nicias run the risque of the ostracism, he would either have expelled Alcibiades, and lived afterwards in his native city in full security; or if it had been carried against him, and he had been forced to retire, he would have avoided the impending stroke of misery, and preserved the reputation of a wise and experienced general. I am not ignorant, that Theophrastus says, Hyperbolus was banished in the contest between Phaeax and Alcibiades, and not in that with Nicias. But most historians give it as above related.

About this time the Aegestans and Leontines sent an embassy, to desire the Athenians to undertake the Sicilian expedition. Nicias opposed it, but was over-ruled by the address and ambition of Alcibiades. Indeed, Alcibiades had previously gained

the assembly by his discourses, and corrupted the people to such a degree with vain hopes, that the young men in their places of exercise, and the old men in the shops and other places where they conversed, drew plans of Sicily, and exhibited the nature of its seas, with all its ports and bearings on the side next Africa. For they did not consider Sicily as the reward of their operations, but only as a place of arms; from whence they were to go upon the conquest of Carthage, nay, of all Africa, and to make themselves masters of the seas within the pillars of Hercules.

While they were so intent upon this expedition, Nicias had not many on his side, either among the commons or nobility, to oppose it. For the rich, fearing it might be thought they were afraid to serve in person, or to be at the expence of fitting out men of war, sat silent, contrary to their better judgment. Nicias, however, opposed it indefatigably, nor did he give up his point after the decree was passed for the war, and he was elected general along with Alcibiades and Lamachus, and his name first in the suffrages. In the first assembly which was held after that, he rose to dissuade them, and to protest against their proceedings. In conclusion he attacked Alcibiades, for plunging the state in a dangerous and foreign war, merely with a view to his own emolument and fame. But his arguments had no effect. They thought a man of his experience the fitter to conduct this enterprize; and that nothing could contribute more to its success, than to unite his caution with the fiery spirit of Alcibiades, and the boldness of Lamachus*. Therefore, they were still more

* In the original it is *την Λαμαχῆς πραότητα*, the mildness of Lamachus. But it is plain, that some quality of Lamachus should be here mentioned, which wanted to be qualified with the caution of Nicias: and mildness could not be that quality. A passage in the life of Alcibiades will help us to rectify the error in the text. Plutarch there speaking of Lamachus, says, *Λαμαχῶς ἡλικία προσηκουῖ*

more confirmed in their choice. Besides, Demoftratus, who of all the orators took most pains to encourage the people to that war, rose and said, he would soon cut off all the excuses of Nicias; and immediately he proposed and carried an order, that the generals should have a discretionary power to lay plans and put them in execution, both at home and abroad.

It is said, indeed, that the priests strongly opposed the expedition. But Alcibiades had other diviners to set against them; and he gave it out, that certain ancient oracles promised the Athenians great glory in Sicily. The envoys, too, who were sent to consult the oracle of Jupiter Ammon, returned with an answer importing that the Athenians would take all the Syracusans.

If any of the citizens knew of bad presages, they took care to conceal them, lest they should seem to pronounce any thing inauspicious of an enterprize which their countrymen had too much at heart. Nor would any warnings have availed, when they were not moved at the most clear and obvious signs. Such was the mutilation of the *Hermæ**, whose heads were all struck off in one night, except that which was called the Mercury of Andocides, and which had been consecrated by the tribe of Egeis, before the door of the person just named. Such also was the pollution of the altar of the twelve gods. A man got astride upon it, and there emasculated himself with a stone. In the temple of Delphi there was a golden statue of Pallas, which the Athenians had

πῶν, ὅπως εἰδᾷται μὴδὲν οὐτοῦ εἶναι τῷ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ διαπυρρῷ καὶ φιλοκινδυνῷ ἐν ἐνίοις ἀγῶσι.

* Though Lamachus was an older man than Alcibiades, yet on some occasions he had as much fire as he, and a courage bordering on temerity. The word therefore, instead of *πραότητα*, should probably be *θρασύτητα*.

* These *Hermæ*, or statues of Mercury, were square figures placed by the Athenians at the gates of their temples, and the doors of their houses.

erected upon a palm-tree of brass, in commemoration of their victory over the Medes : the crows came and beaked it for several days, and pecked off the golden fruit of the tree.

The Athenians, however, said, these were only fictions propagated at Delphi at the instigation of the Syracusans. A certain oracle ordered them to fetch a priestess of Minerva from Clazomenae ; and when she came, they found her name was *Hefychia*, by which the deity seemed to exhort them to continue in quiet. Meton the astrologer, whether he was struck with these signs, or whether by the eye of human reason he discovered the impending danger (for he had a command in the army) feigned himself mad, and set fire to his house. Others say, he used no pretence of madness, but having burnt down his house in the night, addressed himself next morning to the assembly in a forlorn condition, and desired the citizens, in compassion for his misfortune, to excuse his son, who was to have gone out captain of a galley to Sicily.

The genius of Socrates *, on this occasion, warned that wise man by the usual tokens, that the expedition would prove fatal to Athens. He mentioned this to several of his friends and acquaintance, and the warning was commonly talked of. Many were likewise greatly discouraged on account of the time when the fleet happened to be sent out. The women were then celebrating the feasts of Adonis, during which there were to be seen in every quarter of the city images of the dead and funeral processions ; the women accompanying them with dismal lamentations. So that those who took any account of omens, were full of concern for the fate of their countrymen. They trembled to think that an armament fitted out at so vast an expence, and which made so glorious an appearance, would soon lose its consequence.

* In Theag.

As for Nicias, he shewed himself a wise and worthy man, in opposing the expedition while it was under consideration ; and in not suffering himself, after it was resolved upon, to be dazzled by vain hopes or by the eminence of his post, so as to depart from his opinion. Nevertheless, when he could neither divert the people from their purpose, nor by all his efforts get himself excused from taking the command, but was placed, as it were by violence, at the head of a great army, it was then no time for caution and timid delay. He should not then have looked back from his ship like a child ; nor by a multitude of protestations that his better counsels were over-ruled, have disheartened his colleagues, and abated the ardour of his troops, which alone could give him a chance of success. He should have immediately attacked the enemy with the utmost vigour, and made fortune blush at the calamities she was preparing.

But his conduct was very different. When Lamachus * proposed to make a descent close by Syracuse, and to give battle under the walls ; and Alcibiades was of opinion, they should first reduce the cities that owned the authority of Syracuse, and then march against the principal enemy : Nicias opposed both. He gave it for coasting along Sicily without any act of hostility, and shewing what an armament they had. Then he was for returning to Athens, after having left a small reinforcement with the Egesteans, as a taste of the Athenian strength. Thus he intercepted all their schemes, and broke down their spirits.

The Athenians, soon after this, called Alcibiades home to take his trial ; and Nicias remained, joined indeed with another in commission, but first in authority. There was now no end of his delays. He either made an idle parade of sailing along the coast, or else sat still deliberating ; till the spirit of confi-

* Vid. THUCYD. L. vi.

dence which buoyed up his own troops was evaporated and gone, as well as the consternation with which the enemy were seized at the first sight of his armament.

It is true, before the departure of Alcibiades, they had sailed towards Syracuse with sixty galleys, fifty of which they drew up in line of battle before the harbour; the other ten they sent in to reconnoitre the place. These advanced to the foot of the walls, and by proclamation * invited the Leontines to return to their old habitations. At the same time they happened to take one of the enemy's vessels, with the registers on board, in which all the Syracusans were set down according to their tribes. They used to be kept at some distance from the city in the temple of Jupiter Olympius, but were then sent for to be examined, in order to the forming a list of persons able to bear arms. When these registers were brought to the Athenian generals, and such a prodigious number of names was displayed, the diviners were greatly concerned at the accident; thinking the prophecy, that the Athenians should take all the Syracusans, might possibly in this have its entire accomplishment. It is asserted, however, that it had its accomplishment on another occasion, when Callippus the Athenian, after he had killed Dion, made himself master of Syracuse.

When Alcibiades quitted Sicily with a small retinue, the whole power devolved upon Nicias. Lamachus, indeed, was a man of great courage and honour, and he freely exposed his person in time of action; but his circumstances were so mean, that whenever he gave in his accounts of a campaign, he

* They ordered proclamation to be made by a herald, that the Athenians were come to restore the Leontines to their country, in virtue of the relation and alliance between them. In consequence of which, such of the Leontines as were in Syracuse, had nothing to do but repair to the Athenians, who would take care to conduct them.

charged a small sum for clothes and sandals. Nicias, on the contrary, beside his other advantages, derived great authority from his eminence both as to wealth and name. We are told, that on another occasion, when the Athenian generals met in a council of war, Nicias desired Sophocles the poet to give his opinion first, because he was the oldest man. "It is true," said Sophocles, "I am older in respect of years; but you are older in respect of service." In the same manner he now brought Lamachus to act under his orders, though he was the abler general; and his proceedings were for ever timid and dilatory. At first he made the circuit of the island with his ships at a great distance from the enemy; which served only to raise their spirits. His first operation was to lay siege to the little town of Hybla; and not succeeding in that affair, he exposed himself to the utmost contempt. Afterwards he retired to Catana, without any other exploit than that of ruining Hycara, a small place subject to the barbarians. Lais the courtesan, who was then a girl, is said to have been sold among the prisoners, and carried from thence to Peloponnesus.

Towards the end of the summer, he was informed, the Syracusans were come to that degree of confidence, that they designed to attack him. Nay, some of their cavalry rode up to his trenches, and asked his troops in great derision, "Whether they were not rather come to settle in Catana themselves, than to settle the Leontines in their old habitations?"

Nicias now, at last, with much difficulty determined to sail for Syracuse. In order to land his forces and encamp them without running any risque, he sent a person of Catana before him, who, under pretence of being a deserter, should tell the Syracusans, that if they wanted to surprize the enemy's camp in a defenceless state, and make themselves masters of their arms and baggage, they had nothing to do but

to

to march to Catana with all their forces on a day that he mentioned. For the Athenians, he said, passed the greatest part of their time within the walls; and such of the inhabitants as were friends to the Syracusans, had determined upon their approach, to shut in the enemy, and to burn their fleet. At the same time he assured them, their partizans were very numerous, and waited with impatience for their arrival*.

This was the best act of generalship Nicias performed in Sicily. Having drawn by this means the enemy's forces out of Syracuse, so that it was left almost without defence, he sailed thither from Catana, made himself master of their ports, and encamped in a situation, where the enemy could least annoy him by that in which their chief strength consisted, and where he could easily exert the strength in which he was superior.

The Syracusans, at their return from Catana, drew up before the walls, and Nicias immediately attacked and beat them. They did not, however, lose any great number of men, because their cavalry stopped the Athenians in the pursuit. As Nicias had broken down all the bridges that were upon the river, he gave Hermocrates opportunity to encourage the Syracusans by observing, "That it was ridiculous in Nicias to contrive means to prevent fighting; as if fighting was not the business he came about." Their consternation, indeed, was so great, that, instead of the fifteen generals they had, they chose three others, and the people promised upon oath, to indulge them with a power of acting at discretion.

The temple of Jupiter Olympius was near the camp, and the Athenians were desirous to take it, because of the quantity of its rich offerings in gold

* Nicias knew he could not make a descent from his ships near Syracuse, because the inhabitants were prepared for him; nor could he go by land for want of cavalry.

and silver. But Nicias industriously put off the attack, and suffered a Syracusan garrison to enter it; persuaded that the plunder his troops might get there, would be of no service to the public, and that he should bear all the blame of the sacrilege.

The news of the victory soon spread over the whole island, but Nicias made not the least improvement of it. He soon retired to Naxos *, and wintered there; keeping an army on foot at a great expence, and effecting but little; for only a few Sicilians came over to him. The Syracusans recovered their spirits again so as to make another excursion to Catana, in which they ravaged the country, and burnt the Athenian camp. Meanwhile all the world censured Nicias, and said, that by his long deliberations, delays, and extreme caution, he lost the time for action. When he did act, there was nothing to be blamed in the manner of it: For he was as bold and vigorous in executing, as he was timid and dilatory in forming a resolution.

When he had once determined to return with his forces to Syracuse, he conducted all his movements with so much prudence, expedition, and safety, that he had gained the Peninsula of Thapsos, disembarked his men, and got possession of Epipolae, before the enemy knew of his approach. He beat on this occasion some infantry that were sent to succour the fort, and made three hundred prisoners; he likewise routed their cavalry, which was thought invincible.

But what most astonished the Sicilians, and appeared incredible to the Greeks, was, that in a short space of time he enclosed Syracuse with a wall, a city not less than Athens, and much more difficult to be surrounded by such a work, by reason of the unevenness of the ground, the vicinity of the sea, and the adjoining marshes. Add to this, that it was almost effected by a man whose health was by no

* A city between Syracuse and Catana.

means equal to such an undertaking, for he was afflicted with the stone; and if it was not entirely finished, we must impute it to that circumstance.

I cannot, indeed, but admire the attention of the general and the invincible courage of the soldiers, in effecting what they did, in this as well as other instances. Euripides, after their defeat and death, wrote this epitaph for them;

*Eight trophies these from Syracuse obtain'd
Ere yet the gods were partial.*

And in fact we find that the Athenians gained not only eight, but several more victories of the Syracusans, till the gods or fortune declared against them, at a time when they were arrived at the highest pitch of power. Nicias forced himself, beyond what his health would allow, to attend most of the actions in person; but when his distemper was very violent, he was obliged to keep his bed in the camp, with a few servants to wait upon him.

Mean time, Lamachus, who was now commander in chief, came to an engagement with the Syracusans who were drawing a cross wall from the city, to hinder the Athenians from finishing theirs. The Athenians generally having the advantage, went in too disorderly a manner upon the pursuit; and it happened one day that Lamachus was left almost alone to receive the enemy's cavalry. Callicrates, an officer remarkable for his strength and courage, advanced before them, and gave Lamachus the challenge; which he did not decline. Lamachus received the first wound, which proved mortal, but he returned it upon his adversary, and they fell both together. The Syracusans remaining masters of the body and arms of Lamachus, carried them off; and without losing a moment, marched to the Athenian camp, where Nicias lay without any guards to defend him. Roused, however, by necessity and the sight of his danger, he ordered those about him to set fire

to the materials before the entrenchments which were provided for the machines, and to the machines themselves. This put a stop to the Syracusans, and saved Nicias, together with the Athenian camp and baggage; for as soon as they beheld the flames rising in vast columns between the camp and them, they retired.

Nicias now remained sole commander, but he had reason to form the most sanguine hopes of success. The cities declared for him, and ships laden with provisions came daily to his camp; his affairs being in so good a train that the Sicilians strove which should first express their attachment. The Syracusans themselves, despairing of holding out much longer, began to talk of proposals for an accommodation. Gylippus, who was coming from Lacedaemon to their succour, being informed of the wall with which they were enclosed, and the extremities they were reduced to, continued his voyage, not with a view to Sicily, which he gave up for lost, but, if possible, to save the Greek cities in Italy. For the renown of the Athenians was now very extensive; it was reported that they carried all before them, and that they had a general whose prudence, as well as good fortune, rendered him invincible. Nicias himself, contrary to his nature, was suddenly elated by his present strength and success; the more so, because he was persuaded, upon private intelligence from Syracuse, as well as more public application, that the city was about to capitulate. Hence it was, that he took no account of the approach of Gylippus, nor placed any regular guard to prevent his coming ashore; so that, screened by this utter negligence, Gylippus landed with safety. It was at a great distance from Syracuse, and he found means to collect a considerable army. But the Syracusans were so far from knowing or expecting his arrival, that they had assembled that very day to consider of articles of capitulation: nay, some were for coming

coming to terms that moment, before the city was absolutely enclosed. For there was but a small part of the wall unfinished, and all the necessary materials were upon the spot.

At this critical and dangerous instant, Gongylus arrived from Corinth with one galley of three banks of oars. The whole town was in motion, as might naturally be expected. He told them, Gylippus would soon come, with several other ships, to their succour. They could not give entire credit to Gongylus; but while they were weighing the matter, a messenger arrived from Gylippus, with orders that they should march out to join him. Immediately upon this, they recovered their spirits, and armed. Gylippus soon arrived, and put his troops in order of battle. As Nicias was drawing up against him, Gylippus rested his arms, and sent a herald with an offer of safe conduct to the Athenians, if they would quit Sicily. Nicias did not deign to give him any answer. But some of the soldiers asked him by way of ridicule, "Whether the Syracusans were become so strong by the arrival of one Lacedaemonian cloak and staff, as to despise the Athenians, who had lately knocked off the fetters of three hundred Spartans and released them, though all abler men, and better haired than Gylippus?"

Timaeus says, the Sicilians set no great value upon Gylippus. For in a little time they discovered his sordid avarice and meanness; and, at his first appearance, they laughed at his cloak and head of hair. Yet the same historian relates, that as soon as Gylippus shewed himself, the Sicilians gathered about him, as birds do about an owl, and were ready to follow him wherever he pleased. And the latter account has more truth in it than the former. In the staff and cloak they beheld the symbols of the Spartan dignity, and therefore repaired to them. Thucydides also tells us, that Gylippus was the only man who

who saved Sicily, and Philistus, a citizen of Syracuse, and an eye-witness of those transactions, does the same.

In the first engagement, the Athenians had the advantage, and killed some of the Syracusans. Gongylus of Corinth fell at the same time. But the next day, Gylippus shewed them of what consequence is experience in a general: with the very same arms and horses, and on the same spot, by only altering his order of battle*, he beat the Athenians, and drove them to their camp. Then taking the stones and other materials which they had brought for their wall, he continued the cross-wall of the Syracusans, and cut through theirs in such a manner, that if they gained a victory, they could make no advantage of it.

Encouraged by this success, the Syracusans manned several vessels; and beating about the country with their cavalry and allies, they made many prisoners. Gylippus applied to the towns in person, and they readily listened to him, and lent him all the assistance in their power. So that Nicias, relapsing into his former fears and despondence, at the sight of such a change of affairs, applied to the Athenians by letter, either to send another army, or to recall that which he had; and at the same time he desired them by all means to dismiss him from the command, on account of his infirmities.

The Athenians had designed some time before to send another army into Sicily; but the envy which the first success of Nicias had excited, had made them put it off upon several pretences. Now, however, they hastened the succours. They likewise came to a resolution, that Demosthenes should go in

* He had the address to impute the late defeat to himself, and to assure his men that their behaviour was irreproachable. He said, that by ranging them the day before between walls, where their cavalry and archers had not room to act, he had prevented their conquering.

the Spring with a respectable fleet; and that Eury-medon *, without waiting till winter was over, should carry money to pay the troops, and acquaint Nicias that the people had pitched upon Euthydemus and Menander, officers who then served under him, to assist him in his charge.

Mean time, Nicias was suddenly attacked both by sea and land. At first, part of his fleet was worsted; but in the end he proved victorious, and sunk many of the enemy's ships. He could not, however, succour his troops by land, as the exigence of the case required. Gylippus made a sudden attack upon the fort of Plemmyrium, and took it; by which means he became master of the naval stores of the Athenians, and a great quantity of treasure, which had been lodged there. Most of the garrison were either killed or taken prisoners. But, what was still a greater blow to Nicias, by the loss of this place he lost the convenience of his convoys. For, while he had Plemmyrium, the communication was safe and easy; but when that was taken, his supplies could not reach him without the utmost difficulty, because his transports could not pass without fighting the enemy's ships, which lay at anchor under the fort.

Besides, the Syracusans thought their fleet was beaten, not by any superior strength they had to combat, but by their going in a disorderly manner upon the pursuit. They therefore fitted out a more respectable fleet, in order for another action. Nicias, however, did not chuse at present to try the issue of another naval fight, but declared it very absurd, when a large reinforcement of ships and fresh troops was hastening to him under the conduct of Demosthenes, to hazard a battle with a force so much inferior and so ill provided.

On the other hand, Menander and Euthydemus, who were appointed to a temporary share in the command, were led by their ambition and jealousy of

* Eurymedon went with ten gallies.

Demosthenes and Nicias, to strike some extraordinary stroke, in order to be beforehand with the one, and to outdo the most shining actions of the other. Their pretence was the glory of Athens, which they said would be utterly lost, if they shewed any fear of the Syracusan fleet. Thus they over-ruled Nicias, and gave battle. But they were soon defeated by a stratagem of Ariston the Corinthian, who was a most excellent seaman *. Their left wing, as Thucydides relates, was entirely routed, and they lost great numbers of their men. This loss threw Nicias into the greatest consternation. He reflected upon the checks he had met with while he had the sole command, and that he had now miscarried again through the obstinacy of his colleagues.

While he was indulging these reflections, Demosthenes appeared before the port with a very gallant and formidable fleet. He had seventy-three gallies, on board of which were five thousand heavy-armed soldiers, and archers, spearmen and slingers to the number of three thousand. Their armour glittered, the streamers waved, and the prows of the ships were adorned with a variety of rich paintings. He advanced with loud cheers and martial music, and the whole was conducted in a theatrical manner, to strike terror into the enemy.

The Syracusans were ready to fall into despair again. They saw no end or truce to their miseries; their labours and conflicts were all to begin anew, and they had been prodigal of their blood to no purpose. Nicias, however, had not long to rejoice at the

* Ariston advised the captains of the gallies to have refreshments ready for their men on the shore, while the Athenians imagined they went into the town for them. The Athenians, thus deceived, landed and went to dinner likewise. In the mean time the Syracusans, having made an expeditious meal, re-embarked, and attacked the Athenian ships when there was scarcely any body to defend them.

† Diodorus Siculus makes them three hundred and ten.

arrival of such an army. At the first interview, Demosthenes wanted him to attack the enemy, that they might take Syracuse by an immediate and decisive stroke, and return again with glory to Athens. Nicias, astonished at his heat and precipitation, desired him to adopt no rash or desperate measures. He assured him, delay would make against the enemy, since they were already in want of money, and their allies would soon quit both them and their cause. Consequently, when they began to feel the hard hand of necessity, they would apply to him again, and surrender upon terms, as they were going to do before. In fact, Nicias had a private understanding with several persons in Syracuse, who advised him to wait with patience, because the inhabitants were tired out with the war, and weary of Gylippus; and when their necessities should become a little more pressing, they would give up the dispute.

As Nicias mentioned these things in an enigmatical manner, and did not chuse to speak out, it gave occasion to the other generals to accuse him of timidity. "He is coming upon us," said they, "with his old delays, dilatory, slow, over-cautious counsels, by which the vigour and ardour of his troops was lost. When he should have led them on immediately, he waited till their spirit was gone, and the enemy began to look upon them with contempt." The other officers, therefore, listened to Demosthenes, and Nicias at last was forced to give up the point.

Upon this, Demosthenes put himself at the head of the land-forces, and attacked Epipolae in the night. As he came upon the guards by surprize, he killed many of them, and routed those who stood upon their defence. Not content with this advantage, he proceeded till he came to the quarter where the Boeotians were posted. These closed their ranks, and first charged the Athenians, advancing with levelled

velled pikes and with all the alarm of voices; by which means they repulsed them, and killed a considerable number. Terror and confusion spread through the rest of the army. They who still kept their ground, and were victorious, were encountered by those that fled; and they who were marching down from Epipolæ to support the foremost bands, were put in disorder by the fugitives; for they fell foul on one another and took their friends for enemies. The confusion, indeed, was inexpressible, occasioned by their fears, the uncertainty of their movements, and the impossibility of discerning objects as they could have wished, in a night which was neither quite dark nor sufficiently clear; the moon being near her setting, and the little light she gave rendered useless, by the shade of so many bodies and weapons moving to and fro. Hence the apprehensions of meeting with an enemy, made the Athenians suspect their friends, and threw them into the utmost perplexity and distress. They happened, too, to have the moon upon their backs, which casting their shadows before them, both hid the number of their men and the glittering of their arms; whereas the reflection from the shields of the enemy, made them appear more numerous, and better armed than they really were. At last, they turned their backs, and were entirely routed. The enemy pressed hard upon them on all sides, and killed great numbers. Many others met their death in the weapons of their friends. Not a few fell head-long from the rocks or walls. The rest were dispersed about the fields, where they were picked up the next morning by the cavalry, and put to the sword. The Athenians lost two thousand men in this action; and very few returned with their arms to the head-quarters.

This was a severe blow to Nicias, though it was what he expected; and he inveighed against the rash proceedings of Demosthenes. That general defended himself as well as he could, but at the same

time gave it as his opinion, that they should embark and return home as fast as possible. "We cannot hope," said he, "either for another army, or to conquer with the forces we have. Nay, supposing we had the advantage, we ought to relinquish a situation, which is well-known at all times to be unhealthy for the troops, and which now we find still more fatal from the season of the year." It was, indeed, the beginning of autumn; numbers were sick, and the whole army was dispirited.

Nevertheless, Nicias could not bear to hear of retiring home; not that he was afraid of any opposition from the Syracusans, but he dreaded the Athenian tribunals and unfair impeachments there. He therefore replied, "That there was no great and visible danger at present; and, if there were, he had rather die by the hands of the enemy, than those of his fellow-citizens." In this respect he greatly differed from Leo of Byzantium, who afterwards said to his countrymen, "I had rather die for you, than with you." Nicias added, "That if it should appear necessary to encamp in another place, they might consider of it at their leisure."

Demosthenes urged the matter no farther, because his former counsels had proved unfortunate. And he was more willing to submit, because he saw others persuaded, that it was the dependance Nicias had on his correspondence in the town, which made him so strongly oppose their return to Athens. But, as fresh forces came to the assistance of the Syracusans, and the sickness prevailed more and more in the Athenian camp, Nicias himself altered his opinion, and ordered the troops to be ready to embark.

Every thing accordingly was prepared for embarkation, and the enemy paid no attention to these movements, because they did not expect them. But in the night there happened an eclipse of the moon, at which Nicias and all the rest were struck with a great panic, either through ignorance or superstition.

As

As for an eclipse of the sun, which happens at the conjunction, even the common people had some idea of its being caused by the interposition of the moon. But they could not easily form a conception, by the interposition of what body, the moon, when at the full, should suddenly lose her light, and assume such a variety of colours. They looked upon it therefore as a strange and preternatural phaenomenon, a sign by which the gods announced some great calamity.

Anaxagoras was the first who with any clearness and certainty shewed in what manner the moon was illuminated and overshadowed. But he was an author of no antiquity*, nor was his treatise much known; it was confined to a few hands, and communicated with caution and under the seal of secrecy. For the people had an aversion to natural philosophers, and those who were then called *Meteoroleschae* [*enquirers into the nature of meteors*], supposing that they injured the divine power and providence by ascribing things to insensate causes, unintelligent powers, and inevitable necessity. Protagoras was forced to fly on account of such a system; and Anaxagoras was thrown into prison, from whence Pericles with great difficulty got him delivered. Even Socrates†, who meddled not with physics, lost his life for philosophy. At last the glory of Plato enlightened the world, and his doctrine was generally received, both on account of his life, and his subjecting the necessity of natural causes to a more powerful and divine principle. Thus he removed all suspicion of impiety from such researches, and brought the study of mathematics

* He was contemporary with Pericles, and with Nicias too: for he died the first year of the eighty-eighth Olympiad, and Nicias was killed the fourth year of the ninety-first.

† Socrates tells us in his apology, that he had been accused of a criminal curiosity in prying into the heavens, and into the abysses of the earth. However he could not be said to lose his life for his philosophy, so much as for his theology.

into fashion. Hence it was, that his friend Dion, though the moon was eclipsed at the time of his going from Zacynthus against Dionysius, was not in the least disconcerted, but pursued his voyage, and expelled the tyrant.

It was a great unhappiness to Nicias, that he had not then with him an able diviner. Stilbides, whom he employed on such occasions, and who used to lessen the influence of his superstition, died a little before. Supposing the eclipse a prodigy, it could not, as Philocorus observes, be inauspicious to those who wanted to fly, but on the contrary very favourable. For whatever is transacted with fear, seeks the shades of darkness; light is the worst enemy. Besides, on other occasions, as Auticlides * remarks in his commentaries, there were only three days that people refrained from business after an eclipse of either sun or moon; whereas Nicias wanted to stay another entire revolution of the moon, as if he could not see her as bright as ever, the moment she passed the shadow caused by the interposition of the earth.

He quitted, however, almost every other care, and sat still observing his sacrifices, till the enemy came upon him, and invested his walls and entrenchments with their land forces, as well as circled the harbour with their fleet. Not only the men from their ships, but the very boys from the fishing-boats and small barks, challenged the Athenians to come out, and offered them every kind of insult. One of these boys, named Heraclides, who was of one of the best families in Syracuse, advancing too far, was pursued by an Athenian vessel, and very near being taken. His uncle Pollichus seeing his danger, made up with ten gallies which were under his command; and others, in fear for Pollichus, advanced to support him. A sharp conflict ensued, in which the Syracusans were

* This should probably be read Anticlides; for he seems to be the same person whom Plutarch has mentioned in the life of Alexander, and in his Isis and Osiris.

victorious,

victorious, and Eurymedon and numbers more were killed.

The Athenians not brooking any farther delay, with great indignation called upon their generals to lead them off by land. For the Syracusans, immediately after the victory, blocked up the harbour. Nicias, however, would not agree to it; thinking it a cruel thing to abandon so many ships of burthen and near two hundred gallies. He therefore embarked his best infantry, and a select number of archers and spearmen, and manned with them a hundred and ten gallies; as far as his rowers would supply him. The rest of his troops he drew up on the shore; abandoning his great camp and his walls which reached to the temple of Hercules. The Syracusans had not for a long time offered the usual sacrifices to that deity, but now both the priests and generals went to observe the solemnity.

Their troops were embarked; and the inspectors of the entrails promised the Syracusans a glorious victory, provided they did not begin the attack, but only repelled force with force. For Hercules, they said, was victorious only in standing upon the defensive, and waiting to be attacked. Thus instructed, the Syracusans set out.

Then the great sea-fight began; remarkable not only for the vigour that was exerted, but for its causing as great a variety of passion and agitation in the spectators as in the combatants themselves. For those who looked on from the shore, could discern every different and unexpected turn it took. The Athenians suffered not more harm from the enemy, than they did from their own order of battle and the nature of their armament. Their ships were all crowded together, and were heavy and unwieldy besides, while those of the enemy were so light and nimble, that they could easily change their situation, and attack the Athenians on all sides. Add to this, that the Syracusans were provided with a vast quantity of
stones,

stones, which seldom failed of their effect, wherever discharged; and the Athenians had nothing to oppose to them but darts and arrows, the flight of which was so diverted by the motion of the ship, that few of them could reach their mark. The enemy was put upon this expedition by Ariston the Corinthian, who, after he had given great proofs of his courage and ability, fell, the moment that victory was declaring for the Syracusans.

After this dreadful defeat and loss, there was no possibility of escaping by sea. At the same time the Athenians saw it was extremely difficult to save themselves by land. In this despair they neither opposed the enemy who were seizing their vessels close to the shore, nor demanded their dead. They thought it not so deplorable a circumstance to leave the dead without burial, as to abandon the sick and wounded. And though they had great miseries before their eyes, they looked upon their own case as still more unhappy, since they had many calamities to undergo, and were to meet the same fate at last.

They did, however, design to begin their march in the night. Gylippus saw the Syracusans employed in sacrifices to the gods, and in entertaining their friends on account of the victory, and the feast of Hercules; and he knew that neither intreaty nor force would prevail with them to leave the joys of festivity, and oppose the enemy's flight. But Hermocrates* found out a method to impose upon Nicias. He sent persons in whom he could confide, who were to pretend they came from the old correspondents of that general within the town; and that their business was to desire him not to march in the night, because the Syracusans had laid several ambushes for him, and seized all the passes. The stratagem had its

* Hermocrates was sensible of what importance it was to prevent Nicias from retiring by land. With an army of forty thousand men which he had still left, he might have fortified himself in some part of Sicily, and renewed the war.

effect.

effect. Nicias sat still in the simplicity of his heart, fearing he should really fall into the enemy's snares. In the morning the enemy got out before him. Then indeed they did seize all the difficult passes; they threw up works against the fords, broke down the bridges, and planted their cavalry wherever the ground was open and even; so that the Athenians could not move one step without fighting.

These poor men lay close all that day and the night following, and then began their march with tears and loud lamentations; as if they had been going to quit their native country, not that of the enemy. They were, indeed, in great want of provision, and it was a miserable circumstance to leave their sick and wounded friends and comrades behind them; yet they looked upon their present misfortunes as small, in comparison of those they had to expect.

But, among the various spectacles of misery, there was not one more pitiable than Nicias himself; oppressed as he was with sickness, and unworthily reduced to hard diet and scanty provision, when his infirmities required a liberal supply. Yet in spite of his ill health, he acted and endured many things which the more robust underwent not without difficulty. All this while his troops could not but observe, it was not for his own sake, or any attachment to life that he submitted to such labours, but that he seemed still to cherish hope on their account. When sorrow and fear brought others to tears and complaints, if Nicias ever dropped a tear among the rest, it was plain he did it from a reflection on the miserable and disgraceful issue of the war, which he hoped to have finished with great honour and success. Nor was it only the sight of his present misery that moved them, but when they recollected the speeches and warnings by which he endeavoured to dissuade the people from the expedition, they could not but think his lot much more unhappy than he deserved. All their hopes, too, of assistance from heaven abandoned
them.

them, when they observed that so religious a man as Nicias, one who had thought no expence too great in the service of the gods, had no better fortune than the meanest and most profligate person in the army.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, he still endeavoured by the tone of his voice, by his looks, and every expression of kindness to the soldiers, to shew himself superior to his misfortunes. Nay, through a march of eight days, though attacked and harassed all the way by the enemy, he preserved his own division of the army tolerably entire; till Demosthenes was taken prisoner, and the troops he had the conduct of, were surrounded, after a brave resistance, at a small place called Polyzelium. Demosthenes drew his sword and stabbed himself, but as the enemy came immediately upon him and seized him, he had not time to give himself the finishing stroke.

Some Syracusans rode up to Nicias with this news, and he sent a few of his own cavalry to know the certainty. Finding from their account, that Demosthenes and his party were really prisoners, he begged to treat with Gylippus, and offered hostages for paying the Syracusans the whole charges of the war, on condition they would suffer the Athenians to quit Sicily. The Syracusans rejected the proposal with every mark of insolence and outrage, and fell again upon a wretched man who was in want of all manner of necessaries*.

He defended himself, however, all that night, and continued his march the next day to the river Asinarus. The enemy galled his troops all the way, and when they came to the banks of the river, pushed them in. Nay some, impatient to quench their burning thirst, voluntarily plunged into the stream. Then followed

* But were these brave people to blame? Was it not natural for them to use every means in their power to harass and weaken an enemy, who had ambitiously considered their country as a property?

a most cruel scene of blood and slaughter; the poor wretches being massacred as they were drinking. At last, Nicias threw himself at the feet of Gylippus, and said, "Gylippus, you should shew some compassion amidst your victory. I ask nothing for myself. What is life to a man, whose misfortunes are even proverbial? But, with respect to the other Athenians, methinks, you should remember that the chance of war is uncertain, and with what humanity and moderation they treated you, when they were victorious."

Gylippus was somewhat affected both at the sight of Nicias, and at his speech. He knew the good offices he had done the Lacedaemonians at the last treaty of peace; and he was sensible it would contribute greatly to his honour, if he could take two of the enemy's generals prisoners. Therefore, raising Nicias from the ground, he bade him take courage; and gave orders that the other Athenians should have quarter. But as the order was slowly communicated, the number of those that were saved was greatly inferior to that of the slain; though the soldiers spared several, unknown to their officers.

When the Syracusans had collected all the prisoners they could find into one body, they dressed some of the tallest and straightest trees that grew by the river, as trophies, with the arms they had taken from the enemy. After which, they marched homeward, with garlands on their heads, and with their horses adorned in the most splendid manner; having first shorn those of the Athenians. Thus they entered the city, as it were in triumph, after the happy termination of the sharpest dispute that ever subsisted between Grecians, and one of the most complete victories the sun ever beheld, gained by a glorious and persevering exertion of firmness and valour.

A general assembly of the people of Syracuse and of its allies then was held, in which Eurycles *

* Diodorus Siculus calls him Diocles.

the orator proposed a decree, "That, in the first place, the day they took Nicias should be observed as a festival, with the title of *Asinaria*, from the river where that great event took place, and that it should be entirely employed in sacrifices to the gods." This was the twenty-seventh day of the month *Carneus*, called by the Athenians *Metagitnion**. As to the prisoners, he proposed, that the Athenian servants and all the allies should be sold for slaves; that such of the Athenians as were freemen, and the Sicilians their partizans, should be confined to the quarries; and that the generals should be put to death." As the Syracusans accepted the bill, Hermocrates rose up and said, "It was a more glorious thing to make a good use of a victory, than to gain one." But his motion raised a great ferment in the Assembly. Gylippus expressing his desire to have the Athenian generals, that he might carry them prisoners to Lacedaemon, the Syracusans, now grown insolent with their good fortune, loaded him with reproaches. Indeed, they could not well bear his severity and Lacedaemonian rigour in command, while the war lasted. Besides, as Timaeus observes, they had discovered in him an avarice and meanness, which was a disease he inherited from his father Cleandrides, who was banished for taking of bribes. The son, out of the thousand talents which Lyfander sent by him to Sparta, purloined thirty, and hid them under the tiles of his house. Being detected in it, he fled his country with the utmost disgrace; as we have related more at large in the life of Lyfander.

Timaeus does not agree with Philistus and Thucydides, that Demosthenes and Nicias were stoned

* Though it is not easy, as we have observed in a former note, to bring the Grecian months to tally with ours, yet we agree in this place with Dacier, that September is probably meant, or part of it; because Plutarch had said above, that the sickness set in with Autumn.

to death by the Syracufans. Instead of that, he tells us, that Hermocrates sent one of his people, to acquaint these two generals with what was passing in the assembly, and his messenger being admitted by the guards before the court was dismissed, the unhappy men dispatched themselves. Their bodies were thrown without the gates, and lay there exposed to the view of all those who wanted to enjoy the spectacle. I am informed that a shield, said to be that of Nicias, is shewn to this day in one of the temples at Syracuse; the exterior texture of which is gold and purple, and executed with surprizing art.

As to the other Athenians, the greatest part perished in the quarries to which they were confined, by diseases and bad diet; for they were allowed only a pint of barley a-day, and half a pint of water. Many of those who were concealed by the soldiers, or escaped by passing as servants, were sold for slaves and stigmatized with the figure of a horse upon their foreheads. Several of these, however, submitted to their fate with patience; and the modesty and decency with which they behaved, were such, that they were either soon released, or treated in their servitude with great respect by their masters.

Some there were who owed their preservation to Euripides. Of all the Grecians, his was the Muse whom the Sicilians were most in love with. From every stranger that landed in their island, they gleaned some small specimen or portion of his works, and communicated it with pleasure to each other. It is said that on this occasion a number of Athenians, upon their return home, went to Euripides, and thanked him in the most respectful manner for their obligations to his pen; some having been enfranchised for teaching their masters what they remembered of his poems, and others having gotten refreshments when they were wandering about after the battle for singing a few of his verses. Nor is this to
be

be wondered at, since they tell us, that when a ship from Caunus, which happened to be pursued by pirates, was going to take shelter in one of their ports, the Sicilians at first refused to admit her; but upon asking the crew whether they knew any of the verses of Euripides, and being answered in the affirmative, they received both them and their vessel.

The Athenians, we are told, did not give credit to the first news of this misfortune; the person who brought it not appearing to deserve their notice. It seems, a stranger who landed in the Piræus, as he sat to be shaved in a barber's shop, spoke of it as an event already known to the Athenians. The barber no sooner heard it, but, before the stranger could communicate it to any other person, he ran into the city; and applying to the magistrates, informed them of the news in open court. Trouble and dismay seized all that heard it. The magistrates immediately summoned an assembly, and introduced the informant. There he was interrogated of whom he had the intelligence; and as he could give no clear and pertinent answer, he was considered as a forger * of false news and a public incendiary. In this light he was fastened to the wheel, where he bore the torture for some time, till at length some credible persons arrived; who gave a distinct account of the whole disaster. With so much difficulty did the misfortunes of Nicias find credit among the Athenians, though he had often forewarned them that they would certainly happen.

* Casauban would infer from hence, that the Athenians had a law for punishing the forgers of false news. But this person was punished, not so much as a forger of false news, as a public incendiary, who, by exciting groundless terrors in the people, aided and abetted their enemies.

MARCUS CRASSUS.

MARCUS CRASSUS, whose father had borne the office of censor, and been honoured with a triumph, was brought up in a small house with his two brothers. These married while their parents were living, and they all did eat at the same table. This, we may suppose, contributed not a little to render him sober and moderate in his diet. Upon the death of one of his brothers, he took the widow and children into his house. With respect to women, there was not a man in Rome more regular in his conduct; though, when somewhat advanced in years, he was suspected of a criminal commerce with one of the vestal virgins named Licinia. Licinia was impeached by one Plotinus, but acquitted upon trial. It seems, the vestal had a beautiful country-house, which Crassus wanting to have at an under-price, paid his court to the lady with great assiduity, and thence fell under that suspicion. His judges, knowing that avarice was at the bottom of all, acquitted him of the charge of corrupting the vestal: and he never let her rest till she had sold him her house.

The Romans say, Crassus had only that one vice of avarice, which cast a shade upon his many virtues. He appeared, indeed, to have but one bad quality, because

because it was so much stronger and more powerful than the rest, that it quite obscured them. His love of money is very evident from the size of his estate, and his manner of raising it. At first it did not exceed three hundred talents. But during his public employments, after he had consecrated the tenths of his substance to Hercules, given an entertainment to the people, and a supply of bread-corn to each citizen for three months, he found, upon an exact computation, that he was master of seven thousand one hundred talents. The greatest part of this fortune, if we may declare the truth to his extreme disgrace, was gleaned from war and from fires; for he made a traffick of the public calamities. When Sylla had taken Rome, and sold the estates of those whom he had put to death, which he both reputed and called the spoils of his enemies, he was desirous to involve all persons of consequence in his crime, and he found in Crassus a man who refused no kind of gift or purchase.

Crassus observed also, how liable the city was to fires, and how frequently houses fell down; which misfortunes were owing to the weight of the buildings, and their standing so close together*. In consequence of this, he provided himself with slaves who were carpenters and masons, and went on collecting them till he had upwards of five hundred. Then he made it his business to buy houses that were on fire, and others that joined upon them; and he commonly had them at a low price, by reason of the fear and distress the owners were in about the event. Hence, in time, he became master of great part of Rome. But though he had so many workmen, he built no more for himself than one house in which he lived. For he used to say, "That those who love building will soon ruin themselves, and need no other enemies."

* The streets were narrow and crooked, and the houses chiefly of wood after the Gauls had burnt the city.

Though

Though he had several silver mines, and lands of great value, as well as labourers who turned them to the best advantage, yet it may be truly asserted, that the revenue he drew from these, was nothing in comparison of that produced by his slaves. Such a number had he of them, and all useful in life, readers, amanuenses, book-keepers, stewards and cooks. He used to attend to their education, and often give them lessons himself; esteeming it a principal part of the business of a master to inspect and take care of his servants, whom he considered as the living instruments of oeconomy. In this he was certainly right, if he thought, as he often said, that other matters should be managed by servants, but the servants by the master. Indeed, oeconomics, so far as they regard only inanimate things, serve only the low purposes of gain; but where they regard human beings, they rise higher, and form a considerable branch of politics. He was wrong, however, in saying, that no man ought to be esteemed rich, who could not with his own revenue maintain an army. For, as Archidamus observes, it never can be calculated what such a monster as war will devour; nor, consequently, can it be determined what fortune is sufficient for its demands. Very different in this respect were the sentiments of Crassus from those of Marius. When the latter had made a distribution of lands among his soldiers at the rate of fourteen acres a man, and found that they wanted more, he said, "I hope no Roman will ever think that portion of land too little, which is sufficient to maintain him."

It must be acknowledged, that Crassus behaved in a generous manner to strangers; his house was always open to them. To which we may add, that he used to lend money to his friends without interest. Nevertheless, his rigour in demanding his money the very day it was due, often made his seeming favour, a greater inconvenience than the

paying of interest would have been. As to his invitations, they were most of them to the commonalty; and though there was a simplicity in the provision, yet at the same time there was a neatness and unceremonious welcome, which made it more agreeable than more expensive tables.

As to his studies, he cultivated oratory, most particularly that of the bar, which had its superior utility. And though he might be reckoned equal, upon the whole, to the first-rate speakers, yet by his care and application he exceeded those whom nature had more favoured. For there was not a cause, however unimportant, to which he did not come prepared. Besides, when Pompey and Caesar and Cicero refused to speak, he often rose and finished the argument in favour of the defendant. This attention of his to assist any unfortunate citizen, was a very popular thing. And his obliging manner in his common address, had an equal charm. There was not a Roman, however mean and insignificant, whom he did not salute, or whose salutation he did not return, by name.

His knowledge of history is also said to have been extensive, and he was not without a taste of Aristotle's philosophy. In the latter branch he was assisted by a philosopher named Alexander*; a man who gave the most glorious proofs of his disinterested and mild disposition, during his acquaintance with Crassus. For it is not easy to say, whether his poverty was greater, when he entered, or when he left his house. He was the only friend that Crassus would take with him into the country; on which occasions he would lend him a cloak for the journey, but demanded it again when he returned to Rome. The patience of that man is truly admirable,

* Xylander conjectures this might be Alexander the Milesian, who is also called Polyhistor and Cornelius; and who is said to have flourished in the times of Sylla.

particularly,

particularly, if we consider that the philosophy * he professed did not look upon poverty as a thing indifferent. But this was a later circumstance in the life of Crassus.

When the faction of Cinna and Marius prevailed, it soon appeared that they were not returning for any benefit to their country, but for the ruin and destruction of the nobility. Part of them they had already caught and put to death ; among whom were the father and brother of Crassus. Crassus himself, who was then a very young man, escaped the present danger. But, as he saw the tyrants had their hunters beating about for him on all sides, he took three friends and ten servants with him, and fled with surprising expedition into Spain ; where he had attended his father during his praetorship, and gained himself friends. There, too, he found the minds of men full of terror, and all trembling at the cruelty of Marius, as if he had been actually present ; therefore he did not venture to apply to any of his friends in public. Instead of that, he went into a farm which Vibius Pacianus had contiguous to the sea, and hid himself in a spacious cave there. From thence he sent one of his servants to sound Vibius ; for his provisions already began to fail. Vibius delighted to hear that he had escaped, enquired the number of people he had with him, and the place of his retreat. He did not wait on him in person, but sent immediately for the steward of that farm, and ordered him to dress a supper every day, carry it to the foot of the rock, and then retire in silence. He charged him not to be curious in examining into the affair, under pain of death ; and promised him his freedom, if he proved faithful in his commission.

* Aristotle's, as well as Plato's philosophy, reckoned riches among real blessings, and looked upon them as conducive to virtue.

The cave is at a small distance from the sea. The surrounding rocks which form it, admit only a slight and agreeable breath of air. A little beyond the entrance, it is astonishingly lofty, and the compass of it is so great, that it has several large caverns, like a suite of rooms, one within another. It is not destitute either of water or light. A spring of excellent water flows from the rock; and there are small natural apertures, where the rocks approach each other at top, through which day-light is admitted. By reason of the thickness of the rock, the interior air too is pure and clear; the foggy and moist part of it being carried away with the stream.

Crassus in this asylum had his provisions brought every day by the steward, who neither saw nor knew him or his people, though he was seen by them, because they knew his time, and watched for his coming. And he brought not only what was sufficient for use, but delicacies too for pleasure. For Vibius had determined to treat his friend with all imaginable kindness. He reflected that some regard should be had to his time of life, and as he was very young, that he should have some particular indulgences on that account. To supply his necessities only, he thought, looked more like constraint than friendship. Therefore, one day he took with him two handsome maid-servants, and walked towards the sea. When they came to the cave, he shewed them the entrance, and bade them go boldly in, for they had nothing to fear. Crassus seeing them, was afraid his retreat was discovered, and began to examine who they were, and what they wanted. They answered, as they were instructed, "That they were come to seek their master who lay concealed there." Upon which, he perceived, it was only a piece of gallantry in Vibius, who studied to divert him. He received the damsels, therefore, and kept them all the time he stayed there; and they served to carry his messages to Vibius, and

and to bring answers back. Feneſtella * ſays, he ſaw one of them when ſhe was very old, and often heard her tell the ſtory with pleaſure.

Craffus ſpent eight months in this privacy, at the end of which he received intelligence that Cinna was dead. Then he immediately made his appearance, and numbers repaired to him; out of which he ſelected a corps of two thouſand five hundred men. With theſe he viſited the cities; and moſt hiſtorians agree, that he pillaged one called Malaca. But others tell us, he abſolutely denied it, and diſclaimed the thing in the face of thoſe who ſpread the report. After this, he collected veſſels, and paſſed over into Africa, to join Metellus Pius, an officer of great reputation, who had raiſed conſiderable forces. He did not, however, ſtay long there. Upon ſome difference with Metellus, he applied himſelf to Sylla, who received him with pleaſure, and ranked him among his principal friends.

When Sylla was returned to Italy, he choſe to keep the young men he had about him in exerciſe, and ſent them upon various commiſſions. Craffus he diſpatched to levy troops among the Marſi; and, as his paſſage lay through the enemy's country, he demanded guards of Sylla. "I give thee for guards," ſaid he, in an angry tone, "I give thee for guards, thy father, thy brother, thy friends, thy relations, who have been unjuſtly and abominably ſacrificed, and whoſe cauſe I am going to revenge upon their murderers."

Craffus, roused and inflamed with theſe words, paſſed boldly through the miſt of the enemy; raiſed a reſpectable army, and ſhewed his attachment, as well as exerted his courage, in all Sylla's

* Feneſtella wrote ſeveral books of annals. He might ver well have ſeen one of theſe ſlaves when ſhe was old; for he did die till the ſixth year of the reign of Tiberius, nor till ſeventy years of age.

conflicts. Hence, we are told, came his first competition and dispute with Pompey for the palm of honour. Pompey was the younger man, and had this great disadvantage besides, that his father was more hated than any man in Rome. Yet his genius broke forth with such lustre on these occasions, that Sylla treated him with more respect than he generally shewed much older men, or even those of his own rank. For he used to rise up at his approach, and uncover his head, and salute him as *Imperator*.

Craffus was not a little piqued at these things, though there was no reason for his pretensions. He had not the capacity of Pompey; besides, his innate blemishes, his avarice and meanness, robbed his actions of all their grace and dignity. For instance, when he took the city of Tuder in Umbria, he was supposed to have appropriated the greatest part of the plunder to his own use, and was represented in that light to Sylla. It is true, in the battle fought near Rome, which was the greatest and most decisive of all, Sylla was worsted, his troops repulsed, and a number of them killed. Meantime, Craffus, who commanded the right wing, was victorious, and having pursued the enemy till night, sent to inform Sylla of his success, and to demand refreshments for his men.

But in the time of the proscriptions and confiscations, he lost all the credit he had gained; buying great estates at an under-price, and often begging such as he had cast his eye upon. Nay, in the country of the Brutians, he is said to have proscribed one man without Sylla's orders, merely to seize his fortune. Upon this Sylla gave him up, and never after employed him in any public affair.

Though Craffus was an excellent flatterer himself, yet no man was more easily caught by flattery than he. And what was very particular, though he one of the most covetous men in the world,
no

no man was more averse to, or more severe against such as resembled him *. But it gave him still more pain to see Pompey so successful in all his employments, to see him honoured with a triumph, and saluted by the citizens with the title of *the Great*. One day he happened to be told, "Pompey the Great was coming;" upon which he answered with a scornful smile, "How big is he?"

As he despaired of rising to an equality with him in war, he betook himself to the administration; and by paying his court, by defending the impeached, by lending money, and by assisting and canvassing for persons who stood for offices, he gained an authority and influence equal to that which Pompey acquired by his military achievements. There was something remarkably peculiar in their case. The name and interest of Pompey were much greater in Rome, when he was absent and distinguishing himself in the field†. When present, Crassus often carried his point against him. This must be imputed to the state and grandeur that he affected: he seldom shewed himself in public, or appeared in the assemblies of the people; and he very rarely served those who made application to him; imagining by that means he should have his interest entire when he wanted it himself. Crassus, on the contrary, had his services ever ready for those who wanted them; he constantly made his appearance; he was easy of access; his life was spent in business and good offices; so that his open and obliging manner got the better of Pompey's distance and state.

As to dignity of person, powers of persuasion, and engaging turn of countenance, we are told they were

* It was observed by the late ingenious Mr. Shenstone, that a coxcomb will be the first to find out and expose a coxcomb. Men of the same virtues love each other for the sake of those virtues; but sympathy in vice or folly has generally a contrary effect.

† This was not peculiar to Pompey: it was the case of Marius and many others.

the same. But the emulation with which Crassus was actuated, never carried him on to hatred and malignity. It is true, he was concerned to see Pompey and Caesar held in greater honour, but he did not add rancour and malevolence to his ambition : though Caesar, when he was taken by pirates in Asia, and strictly confined, cried out, " O Crassus, what pleasure will it give thee to hear that I am taken ! " However, they were afterwards upon a footing of friendship ; and when Caesar was going to set out for his command in Spain, and his creditors were ready to seize his equipage, because he could not satisfy them, Crassus was kind enough to deliver him from the embarrassment, by giving security for eight hundred and thirty talents.

Rome was at this time divided into three parties, at the head of which were Pompey, Caesar, and Crassus. For, as to Cato, his reputation was greater than his power, and his virtue more admired than followed. The prudent and steady part of the city were for Pompey ; the violent and the enterprising gave into the prospects of Caesar ; Crassus steered a middle course, and availed himself of both. Crassus, indeed, often changed sides, and neither was a firm friend, nor an implacable enemy. On the contrary, he frequently gave up either his attachments, or resentments, indifferently, when his interest required it ; inasmuch that in a short space of time he would appear either in support of, or opposition to, the same persons and laws. He had some influence founded in love, and some in fear ; but fear was the more serviceable principle of the two. An instance of the latter we have in Licinius, who was very troublesome to the magistrates and leading orators of his time. When he was asked, why he did not attack Crassus among the rest, he answered, " He wears wisps upon his horns * . " So the Romans used to serve

* This passed into a proverb.

a vicious bull, for a warning to all persons that passed him.

When the gladiators took up arms and ravaged Italy, their insurrection was commonly called the war of Spartacus. Its origin was this. One Lentulus Batiatus kept at Capua a number of gladiators, the greatest part of which were Gauls and Thracians; men not reduced to that employment for any crimes they had committed, but forced upon it by the injustice of their master. Two hundred of them, therefore, agreed to make their escape. Though the plot was discovered, threescore and eighteen of them, by their extreme vigilance, were beforehand with their master, and sallied out of town, having first seized all the long knives and spits in a cook's shop. On the road they met some waggons carrying a quantity of gladiators arms to another place. These they seized, and armed themselves with them. Then they retired to a place of strength, and made choice of three leaders *. The first was Spartacus, whose extraction was from one of those Thracian *bords* called Nomades. This man had not only a dignity of mind and strength of body, but a discernment and civility superior to his fortune. In short, he was more of a Greek, than a barbarian, in his manner.

It is said, that when he was first brought to Rome to be sold, a serpent was seen twisted about his face as he slept. His wife who was of the same tribe, having the gift of divination, and being a retainer besides to the orgies of Bacchus, said, it was a sign that he would rise to something very great and formidable, the result of which would be happy †. This woman still lived with him, and was the companion of his flight.

* Spartacus, Chrysus, and Oenomaus. This war began in the year of Rome 680; before Christ 71.

† His end was happy for a gladiator. He died fighting gallantly at the head of his troops.

The fugitives first distinguished themselves by defeating a party sent against them from Capua; whose arms they seized and wore with great satisfaction; throwing away those of gladiators, as dishonourable and barbarous. Clodius * the praetor, was then sent against them from Rome, with a body of three thousand men; and he besieged them on the hill where they were posted. There was but one ascent which was very narrow and rugged, and there he placed a sufficient guard. The rest was all a craggy precipice, but covered with wild vines. The fugitives cut off such of the branches as might be of most service, and formed them into a ladder of sufficient strength, and so long as to reach the plain beneath. By the help of this ladder, they all got down safe, except one. This man remained above only to let down their arms; and when he had done that he descended after them.

The Romans knowing nothing of this manoeuvre, the gladiators came upon their rear, and attacked them so suddenly, that they fled in great consternation, and left their camp to the enemy. Spartacus was there joined by the herdsmen and shepherds of the country, men of great vigour and remarkably swift of foot. Some of these he clad in heavy armour, and the rest served as reconnoitring parties and for other purposes of the light-armed.

The next general sent against these gladiators was Publius Varinus †. They first routed his lieutenant Furius, who engaged them with a detachment of two thousand men. After this, Spartacus watched the motions of Cossinius, who was appointed assistant and chief counsellor to Varinus and was now marching against him with a considerable force. His vigilance was such, that he was very near taking Cossinius in the bath at Salenae; and though he did escape

* Clodius Glaber.

† In the different editions of Livy Epton, it is read Varenus, Varinius, &c.

with

with much difficulty, Spartacus seized his baggage. Then he pursued his steps, and took his camp, having first killed great numbers of the Romans. Cossinius himself was among the slain. His subsequent operations were equally decisive. He beat Varinus in several engagements, and took his lictors, and the very horse he rode.

By this time he was become great and formidable. Nevertheless his views were moderate: he had too much understanding to hope the conquest of the Romans; and therefore led his army to the Alps, with an intention to cross them, and then dismiss his troops, that they might retire to their respective countries, some to Thrace, and some to Gaul. But they, relying upon their numbers, and elated with success, would not listen to his proposal. Instead of that, they laid Italy waste, as they traversed it.

It was no longer the indignity and disgrace of this revolt that afflicted the senate; it was fear and danger; and they now employed both the consuls in this war, as one of the most difficult and important they ever had upon their hands. Gellius, one of the consuls, having surprized a body of Germans, who were so rash and self-opinionated as to separate from the troops of Spartacus, defeated them entirely and put them to the sword. Lentulus, the other consul, endeavoured to surround Spartacus with his forces, which were very considerable. Spartacus met him fairly in the field, beat his lieutenants, and stripped them of their baggage. He then continued his rout towards the Alps, but was opposed by Cassius, who commanded in that part of Gaul which lay about the Po, and came against him at the head of ten thousand men. A battle ensued, in which Cassius was defeated, with great loss, and saved himself not without difficulty.

No sooner were the senate informed of these miserable proceedings, than they expressed the greatest indignation against the consuls, and gave orders that
they

they should be superseded in the command. Crassus was the person they pitched upon as the successor, and many of the nobility served under him, as volunteers, as well on account of his political influence as from personal regard. He went and posted himself in the Picene, in order to intercept Spartacus, who was to march that way. At the same time he sent his lieutenant Mummius round with two legions; giving him strict orders only to follow the enemy, and by no means to hazard either battle or skirmish. Mummius, however, upon the first promising occasion, engaged Spartacus, and was entirely routed. Numbers fell upon the field of battle, and many others threw away their arms, and fled for their lives.

Crassus gave Mummius a severe reprimand, and new armed his men, but insisted withal that they should find security for their keeping those arms they were now entrusted with. The first five hundred, who had shewn the greatest marks of cowardice, he divided into fifty parts, and put one in each deced to death, to whose lot it might happen to fall; thus reviving an ancient custom of military punishment which had been long disused. Indeed, this kind of punishment is the greatest mark of infamy, and being put in execution in sight of the whole army, is attended with many awful and affecting circumstances.

After thus chastising his men, he led them against the enemy. But Spartacus turned back and retired through Lucania to the sea. The rebel happening to find a number of vessels in harbour belonging to the Cilician pirates, resolved to make an attempt upon Sicily; where at the head of two thousand men, he thought he could easily rekindle the Servile war, which had but lately been smothered*, and

* It was but nineteen years before, that a period was put to the Servile war in Sicily.

which wanted little fuel to make it flame out again. Accordingly the pirates entered into agreement with him, but they had no sooner taken his money, than they broke their engagement and sailed another way. Spartacus, thus deceived, left the sea, and entrenched himself in the peninsula of Rhegium.

When Crassus came up, he observed that the nature of the place suggested what measures he should take; in consequence of which he determined to build a wall across the isthmus. This, he knew would at once keep his soldiers from idleness, and cut off the enemy's supplies. The work was great and difficult: nevertheless he finished it beyond all expectation, in a short time; drawing a trench from sea to sea three hundred furlongs in length, fifteen feet in breadth and as many in depth; he built a wall also above it of considerable height and strength.

Spartacus at first made a jest of the undertaking. But, when his plunder began to fail, and he wanted to go farther, he saw the wall before him, and at the same time was conscious that the peninsula was exhausted. He watched his opportunity, however, in a snowy and tempestuous night, to fill up the trench with earth, wood, and other materials; and so passed it with the third part of his army. Crassus now began to fear, that Spartacus, in the spirit of enterprize, would march immediately to Rome. But when he observed that a number of the enemy, upon some difference or other, separated and encamped upon the Lucanian lake, he recovered his spirits. The water of this lake is said to change in such a manner, as sometimes to be sweet and fresh, and at other times so salt that it is impossible to drink it. Crassus fell upon this party, and drove them from the lake, but could not do any great execution, or continue the pursuit far, because Spartacus made his appearance, and rallied the fugitives.

Crassus now repented of his having written to the senate, *that it was necessary to recall Lucullus from Thrace,*

Thrace, and Pompey from Spain; and hastened to finish the war himself. For he was sensible that the general who should come to his assistance, would rob him of all the honour. He resolved, therefore, in the first place, to attack the troops which had revolted, and formed a separate body under the command of two officers named Cannicius and Castus. With this view, he sent a corps of six thousand men before, to seize an eminence which he thought would be of service to him, but ordered them to conduct their enterprize with all imaginable secrecy. They observed his directions, and, to conceal their march the better, covered their helmets and the rest of their arms. Two women, however, who were sacrificing before the enemy's camp, discovered them; and they would probably have met their fate, had not Crassus advanced immediately, and given the enemy battle. This was the most obstinate action in the whole war. Twelve thousand three hundred of the enemy were killed, of which number there were only two found wounded in the back; the rest died in their ranks, after the bravest exertions of valour.

Spartacus, after this defeat, retired towards the mountains of Petelia: and Quintus, one of Crassus's officers, and Scrophia the quaestor, marched after, to harass his rear. But Spartacus facing about, the Romans fled in the most dastardly manner, and with great difficulty carried off the quaestor who was wounded. This success was the ruin of Spartacus. It gave the fugitives such spirits, that they would no longer decline a decisive action, or be obedient to their officers; but as they were upon the road, addressed them with their swords in their hands, and insisted on marching back through Lucania with the utmost expedition, to meet the Romans and face Crassus in the field.

This was the very thing that Crassus desired. He was informed that Pompey was approaching; and of the many speeches to the people on occasion of the en-

ensuing election in which it was asserted, that this laurel belonged to him, and that as soon as he made his appearance, he would by some decisive stroke put an end to the war.

Crassus, therefore, hastened to give that stroke himself, and with the same view, encamped very near the enemy. One day when he had ordered his soldiers to dig a trench, the gladiators attacked them as they were at work. Numbers came up continually on both sides to support the combatants; and at last Spartacus, seeing what the case necessarily required, drew out his whole army. When they brought him his horse, he drew his sword and killed him, saying at the same time, "If I prove victorious, I shall have horses at command; if I am defeated, I shall have no need of this." His aim was to find Crassus, and he made his way through showers of darts and heaps of the slain. He did not, indeed, reach him, but he killed with his own hand two centurions who ventured to engage him. At last, those who seconded him fled. He, however, still stood his ground, and, though surrounded by numbers, fought with great gallantry, till he was cut in pieces.

Crassus, on this occasion, availed himself of every circumstance with which fortune favoured him; he performed every act of generalship; he exposed his person in the boldest manner: yet he was only wreathing a laurel for the brows of Pompey. Pompey met, it seems, those who escaped out of the field, and put them to the sword. In consequence of which, he wrote to the senate, "that Crassus had indeed beaten the fugitive gladiators in a pitched battle; but that it was he who had cut up the war roots *."

Pompey, on his return to Rome, triumphed in a magnificent manner for his conquest of Sertorius

* Labore alieno magno partem gloriam verbis in se transmovet qui habet salem. TERN.

and Spain. As for Crassus, he did not pretend to ask for the greater triumph; and even the less, which is led up on foot, under the name of an Ovation, seemed to have no propriety or decorum in the conquest of fugitive slaves. In what respects this differs from the other, and whence the term *ovation* is derived, we have considered in the life of Marcellus.

Pompey was immediately called to the consulship; and though Crassus had interest enough of his own to encourage him to hope for the same honour, yet he scrupled not to solicit his good offices. Pompey received the application with pleasure; for he was desirous by all means to have Crassus under an obligation to him. He therefore readily espoused his cause, and, at last, when he made his speech to the people, said, "he was as much indebted to them for the colleague they had given him, as for their favour to himself." However, the same good understanding did not long continue; they differed about almost every article that came before them; and those disputes and altercations prevented their doing any thing considerable during their whole consulship. The most remarkable thing was, that Crassus offered a great sacrifice to Hercules, entertained the people at ten thousand tables, and gave them a supply of bread-corn for three months.

When they held one of the last assemblies before they quitted their charge, a Roman knight, named Onatius Aurelius, who had spent most of his time in a retired manner in the country, and was a man of no great note, mounted the rostrum, and gave the people an account of a vision that had appeared to him. "Jupiter," said he, "appeared to me in a dream, and commanded me to inform you in this public manner, that you are not to suffer the consuls to lay down their office, before they are reconciled." He had no sooner ended his speech, than the people insisted that they should be reconciled. Pompey
stood

stood without making any motion towards it, but Crassus went and offered him his hand. "I am not ashamed, my fellow-citizens," said he, "nor do I think it beneath me, to make the first advances to Pompey, whom you distinguished with the name of *Great* while he was but a beardless youth, and whom you honoured with a triumph before he was a senator."

These were the only memorable things in the consulate of Crassus. As for his censorship*, it passed without any thing worth mentioning. He made no inquisition into the lives and manners of the senators; he did not review the equestrian order, or number the people. Lutatius Catulus, one of the best natured men in the world, was his colleague; and it is said, that when Crassus wanted to adopt a violent and unjust measure, I mean the making Egypt tributary to Rome, Catulus strongly opposed it; and hence arose that difference, in consequence of which they resigned their charge.

When the great conspiracy of Catiline, which brought the commonwealth to the verge of destruction, broke out, Crassus was suspected of having some concern in it. Nay, there was one who named him among the conspirators; but no one gave credit to his information†. It is true, Cicero, in one of his orations, openly accuses both Crassus and Caesar of that crime. But that oration did not appear in

* He was censor six years after his consulship, sixty-three years before the birth of Christ.

† Sallust says otherwise. He tells us it did appear incredible to some, but others believed it. Yet not thinking it adviseable to exasperate a man of so much power, they joined his retainers and those who owed him money, in crying it was a calumny, and in saying the senate ought to exculpate him; which accordingly they did. Some were of opinion, and Crassus himself among the rest, that the informer was suborned by Cicero. But what end could Cicero have in accusing a man of his consequence, unless it were to alarm the senate and people the more with a sense of their danger? And what could Crassus propose to himself in entering into a plot to burn a city, in which his property was so large?

public, till both those great men were dead. On the other hand, the same Cicero, in the oration he delivered relating to his consulship, expressly says, that Crassus came to him one night, and put a letter in his hands, which shewed the reality of the plot into which they were then enquiring, Be that as it may, it is certain that Crassus after this conceived a mortal hatred for Cicero, and would have shewn it in some act of violence, had not his son Publius prevented it. Publius was a man of letters, and eloquence had a particular charm for him; hence his attachment to Cicero was so great, that when the bill for his banishment was proposed, he went into mourning, and persuaded the rest of the Roman youth to do the same. At last, he even prevailed with his father to be reconciled to him.

About this time Caesar returned from his government, to solicit the consulship. Finding Crassus and Pompey again at variance, he would not apply to either in particular, lest he should make the other his enemy; nor could he hope to succeed without the assistance of one of them. In this dilemma he determined, if possible, to effect a good understanding once more between them. For which purpose he represented, "That by levelling their artillery
"against each other, they raised the Ciceros, the
"Catuli and the Catos; who would be nothing
"if they were once real friends, and took care
"to act in concert. If that were the case," said he,
"with your united interests and counsels you might
"carry all before you."

These representations had their effect, and, by joining himself to the league, he formed that invincible triumvirate which ruined the senate and people of Rome. Not that either Crassus or Pompey gained any advantage from their union; but Caesar, by the help of both, climbed to the highest pinnacle of power. An earnest of this he had, in his being unanimously elected consul. And, as he acquitted himself

self in his office with great honour, they procured him the command of armies, and decreed him the province of Gaul, where he was established, as in an impregnable castle. For, they imagined, if they did but secure to him the province that was fallen to his lot, they might share the rest between them at their leisure.

It was the immoderate love of power which led Pompey into this error. And Crassus to his old disease of avarice, now added a new one. The achievements, the victories and triumphs of Caesar, raised in Crassus a passion for the same; and he could not be content to be beneath him in this respect, though he was so much superior in others. He therefore never let himself rest, till he met an inglorious fate, and involved his country in the most dreadful calamities.

On Caesar's coming from Gaul to the city of Lucca, numbers went to wait upon him, and among the rest Crassus and Pompey. These, in their private conferences, agreed with him to carry matters with a higher hand, and to make themselves absolute in Rome. For this purpose, Caesar was to remain at the head of his army, and the other two chiefs to divide the rest of the provinces and armies between them. There was no way however, to carry their scheme into execution, without suing for another consulship; in which Caesar was to assist by writing to his friends, and by sending a number of his soldiers to vote in the election.

When Crassus and Pompey returned to Rome, their designs were very much suspected; and the general discourse was, that the late interview boded no good to the commonwealth. Hereupon, Marcellinus and Domitius* asked Pompey in full senate, "Whether he intended to solicit the consulship?" To which he answered, "Perhaps I may, perhaps not." And, upon their interrogating him a second

* Domitius Ahenobarbus.

time, he said, " If I solicit it, I shall solicit it for
" men of honour, and not for men of a meaner prin-
" ple." As this answer appeared to have too
much of haughtiness and contempt, Crassus expressed
himself with more moderation, " If it be for the
" public good, I shall solicit it ; if not, I shall for-
" bear."

By this some other candidates, and among the rest
Domitius, were emboldened to appear ; but as soon
as Crassus and Pompey declared themselves, the rest
dropped their pretensions. Only Domitius was ex-
horted and encouraged by his friend and kinsman
Cato, " not to abandon his prospects, but to stand
" boldly up for the liberties of his country. As for
" Pompey and Crassus," he said, " they wanted not
" the consulship, but absolute power ; nor was it so
" much their aim to be chief magistrates at home, as
" to seize the provinces, and to divide the armies
" between them."

Cato having thus expressed his real sentiments,
drew Domitius almost forcibly into the *Forum*, and
numbers joined them there. For they were greatly
surprised at this step of Crassus and Pompey. " Why
" do they demand," said they, " a second consul-
" ship? Why together? Why not with others?
" Have we not many persons of merit, sufficient to
" entitle them to be colleagues with either Crassus
" or Pompey?"

Pompey's party, alarmed at these speeches, threw
off the mask, and adopted the most violent mea-
sures. Among other outrages, they way-laid Do-
mitius as he was going to the place of election be-
fore day, accompanied by his friends ; killed the
torch-bearer, and wounded many of his train, Cato
among the rest. Then they shut them all up to-
gether, till Crassus and Pompey were elected.

A little after this, they confined Domitius to his
house, by planting armed men about it, drove Cato
out of the *Forum*, and killed several who made re-
sistance.

sistance. Having thus cleared the way, they continued Caesar in his government for five years more, and got Syria and both the Spains for their own provinces. Upon casting lots, Syria fell to Crassus, and the Spains to Pompey.

The allotment was not disagreeable to the multitude. They chose to have Pompey not far from Rome; and Pompey, who passionately loved his wife, was very glad of the opportunity to spend most of his time there. As for Crassus, as soon as it appeared that Syria was his lot, he discovered the greatest joy, and considered it as the principal happiness of his life; insomuch that even before strangers and the populace he could hardly restrain his transports. To his intimate friends he opened himself more freely, expressing the most sanguine hopes, and indulging in vain elevations of heart, unsuitable to his age and disposition: for in general he was far from being pompous or inclined to vanity. But now extravagantly elated and corrupted by his flattering prospects, he considered not Syria and the Parthians as the termination of his good fortune; but intended to make the expedition of Lucullus against Tigranes, and of Pompey against Mithridates, appear only the sports of children. His design was to penetrate to the Bactrians, the Indians, the eastern ocean, and in his hopes he had already swallowed up the east.

In the law relating to the government of Crassus, no mention was made of a war in its neighbourhood; but all the world knew Crassus had an eye to it. And Caesar in the letter he wrote to him from Gaul, commended his design, and encouraged him to attack the Parthians. But when he was going to set out, Ateius, one of the tribunes, threatened to stop him, and numbers joined the tribune's party. They could not without indignation think of his going to begin hostilities against a people who had done them no injury, and were in fact their allies. Crassus,

alarmed at this, desired Pompey to conduct him out of Rome. He knew the dignity of Pompey and the veneration the populace had for him: and on this occasion, though many were prepared to withstand Crassus and to raise a clamour against him, yet when they saw Pompey marching before him with an open and gay countenance, they dropped their resentment, and made way in silence.

Ateius, however, advanced to meet him. In the first place by the authority of his office he commanded him to stop, and protested against his enterprise. Then he ordered one of his officers to seize him. But, the other tribunes interposing, the officer let Crassus go. Ateius now ran before to the gate, and placed there a censer with fire in it. At the approach of Crassus, he sprinkled incense upon it, offered libations, and uttered the most horrid imprecations, invoking at the same time certain dreadful and strange gods. The Romans say, these mysterious and ancient imprecations * have such power, that the object of them never escapes their effect; nay, they add, that the person who uses them is sure to be unhappy; so that they are seldom used, and never but upon a great occasion. Ateius was much blamed for his rash zeal. It was for his country's sake that he was an adversary to Crassus, and yet it was his country he had laid under that dreadful curse.

Crassus pursuing his journey, came to Brundisium; and though the winter-storms made the voyage dangerous, he put to sea, and lost a number of vessels in his passage. As soon as he had collected the rest of his troops, he continued his rout by land through Galatia. There he paid his respects to Deiotarus, who, though an old man, was building a new city. Crassus laughed, and said, "you begin to build at the twelfth hour of the day." The king laughed in his turn, and answered, "you

* ——— Dira detestatio
Nulla expiatur victima.

HOR.

" do

“ do not set out very early in the morning against the Parthians.” Crassus, indeed, then was above* sixty years of age, and he looked much older than he was.

Upon his arrival in Syria, his affairs prospered at first according to his expectation. He threw a bridge over the Euphrates with ease, and his army passed it without opposition. Many cities in Mesopotamia voluntarily received him; and one only stood upon its defence. The prince who governed it was named Apollonius. The Romans having lost about a hundred men before it, Crassus marched against it with all his forces, took it by assault, plundered it of every thing valuable, and sold the inhabitants for slaves. The Greeks call that city Zenodotia†. Crassus, upon taking it, suffered his army to salute him *Imperator*: a thing which reflected no small disgrace upon him. It shewed the meanness of his spirit, and his despair of effecting any thing considerable, when he valued himself upon such a trifling acquisition.

After he had garrisoned the towns that had submitted, with seven thousand foot and a thousand horse, he returned into Syria, to winter. There he was joined by his son, whom Caesar had sent to him from Gaul, adorned with military honours, and at the head of a thousand select horse.

Among the many errors which Crassus committed in this war, the first, and none of the least, was his returning so soon into Syria. He ought to have gone forward, and strengthened himself with the accession of Babylon and Seleucia, cities always at enmity with the Parthians: instead of which, he gave the enemy abundant time to prepare themselves. Besides, his occupations in Syria were greatly censured, having more of the trader in them than of the general. Instead of examining into the arms of

* Crassus set out upon this expedition in the year of Rome 699.

† Zenodotia in the province of Osrhoëne.

his soldiers, keeping them in exercise, and improving their strength and activity by proper rewards, he was enquiring into the revenues of the cities, and weighing the treasures in the temple of the goddess of Hierapolis *. And though he fixed the quotas of troops which the states and principalities were to furnish, he let them off again for a sum of money; which exposed him to the contempt of those whom he excused.

The first sign of his future fortune came from this very goddess, whom some call Venus, some Juno, others *Nature*, or that great principle which produces all things out of moisture, and instructs mankind in the knowledge of every thing that is good. As they were going out of the temple, young Crassus stumbled and fell at the gate, and his father fell upon him.

He was now drawing his troops out of winter-quarters, when ambassadors came from Arsaces, and addressed him in this short speech. " If this army
" was sent against the Parthians by the Roman people,
" that people has nothing to expect but perpetual war,
" and enmity irreconcilable. But if Crassus, against the
" inclinations of his country (which they were informed
" was the case), to gratify his own avarice, has undertaken
" this war, and invaded one of the Parthian provinces,
" Arsaces will act with more moderation. He will take
" compassion on Crassus's age, and let the Romans go,
" though in fact he considers them rather as in prison than
" in garrison." To this, Crassus made no return but a
" rhodomontade: he said, " he would give them his answer
" at Seleucia." Upon which, Vagises, the oldest of the
" ambassadors, laughed; and,

* About twenty miles from the Euphrates there was a city known by the several names of Bambyce, Edeffa, and Hierapolis. By the Syrians it was called Magog. The goddess Atargatis was worshipped there with great devotion. Lucian mentions her temple as the richest in the world.

turning up the palm of his hand, replied, "Crassus, here will hair grow, before thou wilt see Se-leucia."

The ambassadors then returned to their king Orodes *, and told him he must prepare for war. Mean time, some Romans escaped with difficulty from the cities they garrisoned in Mesopotamia, and brought a very alarming account of the enemy. "They said, they had been eye-witnesses to their immense numbers, and to their dreadful manner of fighting, when they attacked the towns." And, as it is usual for fear to magnify its object, they added, "It is impossible either to escape them when they pursue, or to take them when they fly. They have a new and strange sort of arrows, which are swifter than lightning, and reach their mark before you can see they are discharged; nor are they less fatal in their effect, than swift in their course. The offensive arms of their cavalry pierce through every thing, and the defensive arms are so well tempered that nothing can pierce them."

The Roman soldiers were struck with this account, and their courage began to droop. They had imagined, that the Parthians were not different from the Armenians and Cappadocians, whom Lucullus had beaten and driven before him till he was weary; and consequently that the hardest part of the expedition would be the length of the way, and the trouble of pursuing men who would never stand an engagement. But now they found they had war and danger to look in the face, which they had not thought of: insomuch that several of the principal

* Here the king of Parthia is called Orodes, who before was called Arsaces. Arsaces was probably a name common to the kings of that country, and Orodes the proper name of this prince. He was the son of Phraates the Second, and made his way to the crown through the blood of his elder brother Mithridates. For this he deservedly died the same kind of death.

officers were of opinion that Crassus ought to stop, and call a council to consider whether new measures ought not to be taken. Of this number was Cassius the quaestor. Besides, the soothsayers whispered, that the sacrifices were not accepted by the gods, and the signs appeared always inauspicious to the general. However, he paid no attention to them, nor to any but those who were for hastening his march.

He was the more confirmed in his intentions by the arrival of Artavasdes *, king of Armenia. That prince came with six thousand horse, which he said were only his body-guard. He promised Crassus ten thousand more, armed at all points, and thirty thousand foot, all to be maintained at his own expence. At the same time, he advised him to enter Parthia by way of Armenia. "By that means," said he, "you will not only have plenty of provisions, which I shall take care to supply you with; but your march will be safe, as it will lie along a chain of mountains and a country almost impracticable for cavalry, in which the Parthian strength consists." Crassus received his tender of service and his noble offer of succours but coldly; and said, "He should march through Mesopotamia, where he had left a number of brave Romans." Upon this the Armenian bade him adieu, and returned to his own country.

As Crassus was passing the Euphrates at Zeugma, he met with dreadful bursts of thunder, and lightnings flamed in the face of his troops. At the same time the black clouds emitted a hurricane mingled with fire, which broke down and destroyed great part of his bridge. The place which he had marked out for a camp, was also twice struck with lightning. One of the general's war-horses, richly caparisoned,

* In the text he is here called Artabases; but as Plutarch calls him Artavasdes every where afterwards, we thought it proper to put it so here.

running away with his rider, leaped into the river, and was seen no more. And it is said, when the foremost eagle was moved, in order for a march, it turned back of its own accord. Besides these ill tokens, it happened that when the soldiers had their provisions distributed, after they had crossed the river, they were first served with lentiles and salt, which are reckoned ominous, and commonly placed upon the monuments of the dead. In a speech of Crassus to the army, an expression escaped him, which struck them all with horror. He said, "he had broken down the bridge, that not one of them might return." And when he ought, upon perceiving the impropriety of the expression, to have recalled or explained it to the intimidated troops, his obstinacy would not permit him. To which we may add, that in the sacrifice offered for the lustration of the army, the *aruspex* having put the entrails in his hand he let them fall. All that attended the ceremony were struck with astonishment; but he only said, with a smile, "See what it is to be old! My sword however shall not slip out of my hands in this manner."

Immediately after this, he began his march along the side of the Euphrates, with seven legions, near four thousand horse, and almost as many of the light-armed. He had not gone far before some of his scouts returned, and told him, they had not found so much as one man in their excursions; but that there were many vestiges of cavalry, who appeared to have fled as if they had been pursued.

Crassus now began to be more sanguine in his hopes and the soldiers to hold the enemy in contempt, upon a supposition that they durst not stand an encounter. Nevertheless, Crassus addressed himself to the general again, and advised him "to secure his troops in some fortified town, till he should have some account of the enemy that might be depended upon. If he did not chuse that, he desired him to keep
" along

“along the river till he reached Seleucia. For by
 “this means he would be constantly supplied with
 “provisions from the vessels that would follow his
 “camp; and the river preventing his being sur-
 “rounded, he would always have it in his power to
 “fight upon equal terms.”

While Crassus was weighing these counsels with much deliberation, there arrived an Arabian chief, named Ariamnes *. This artful and perfidious man was the principal instrument of all the calamities which fortune was preparing for the ruin of Crassus. Some of his officers who had served under Pompey, knew how much Ariamnes was indebted to that general's favour, and that in consequence he passed for a well-wisher to the Romans. But now gained by the Parthian officers, he concerted with them a scheme to draw Crassus from the river and the higher grounds, into an immense plain, where he might easily be surrounded. For the enemy thought of nothing less, than fighting a pitched battle with the Romans.

This barbarian, then, addressing himself to Crassus, at first launched out into the praises of Pompey as his benefactor, for he was a voluble and artful speaker. Then he expressed his admiration of so fine an army, but withal took occasion to blame Crassus for his delays, and the time he spent in preparing; as if weapons, and not rather active hands and feet were required against a people, who had long been determined to retire with their most valuable effects and with their families and friends, to the Scythians and Hyrcanians. “Or suppose you
 “have to fight” said he, “you ought to hasten to
 “the encounter, before the king recovers his spirits,
 “and collects all his forces. At present he has only
 “sent out Surena and Sillaces to amuse you, and to
 “prevent your pursuit of himself. For his part, he
 “will take care not to appear in the field.”

* Appian and Dion Cassius call him Acbarus or Agbarus.

This story was false in every circumstance. For Orodes had divided his army into two parts; with one of which he was ravaging Armenia, to wreak his revenge upon Artavasdes; Surena was left with the other, to make head against the Romans. Not that the king (as some will have it) had any contempt for the Romans: for Crassus, one of the most powerful men Rome had produced, was not an antagonist whom he should despise, and think it a fairer field of honour to go and fight with Artavasdes, and lay waste Armenia. On the contrary, it is highly probable, it was his apprehensions of danger which made him keep at a distance and watch the rising event, in order to which he sent Surena before him, to make trial of the enemy's strength, and to amuse them with his stratagems. For Surena was no ordinary person; but in fortune, family, and honour, the first after the king; and in point of courage and capacity as well as in size and beauty, superior to the Parthians of his time. If he went only upon an excursion into the country, he had a thousand camels to carry his baggage, and two hundred carriages for his concubines. He was attended by a thousand heavy-armed horse, and many more of the light-armed rode before him. Indeed, his vassals and slaves made up a body of cavalry little less than ten thousand. He had the hereditary privilege in his family to put the diadem upon the king's head, when he was crowned. When Orodes was driven from the throne, he restored him; and it was he who conquered for him the great city of Seleucia, being the first to scale the wall, and beating off the enemy with his own hand. Though he was then not thirty years old, his discernment was strong and his counsel esteemed the best. These were the talents by which he overthrew Crassus, who laid himself open to his arts, first by a too sanguine confidence, and afterwards by his fears and depression under misfortunes.

When

When Crassus had listened to the lure of Ariamnes, and left the river to march into the plain, the traitor led him a way that was smooth and easy at first; but after a while it became extremely difficult, by reason of the deep sands in which he had to wade, and the sight of a vast desert without wood or water, which afforded no prospect of repose or hope of refreshment. So that his troops were ready to give out, not only through thirst and the difficulty of the march, but through the comfortless and melancholy view before them of a country where there was neither tree nor stream to be seen, no hill to shelter them, no green herb growing, but the billows of an immense sea of sand surrounding the whole army.

These things gave them sufficient reason to suspect they were betrayed; but when the envoys of Artavasdes arrived, there was no room to doubt it. That prince informed Crassus, "That Orodes had invaded his kingdom with a great army, so that now he could send the Romans no succours. Therefore he advised them to march towards Armenia, where with their united forces they might give Orodes battle. If Crassus did not relish this advice, he conjured him at least never to encamp upon any ground favourable to the cavalry, but to keep close to the mountains." Crassus in his resentment and infatuation would send no answer in writing; he only said he was not at leisure now to think of the Armenians, but by and by he would come and chastise their king for his perfidiousness. Crassus was again extremely chagrined, but would not make any more remonstrances to the general, who was already offended at the liberty he had taken. He applied, however, to the Barbarian in private, in such terms as these, "O thou vilest of impostors, what malevolent daemon has brought thee amongst us? By what potions, by what enchantments, hast thou prevailed upon Crassus to pour his army into this vast, this amazing

“ing desert; a march more fit for a Numidian robber than for a Roman general?” The barbarian, who had art enough to adapt himself to all occasions, humbled himself to Cassius, and encouraged him to hold out and have patience only a little longer. As for the soldiers, he rode about the ranks under a pretence of fortifying them against their fatigues, and made use of several taunting expressions to them, “What?” said he, “do you imagine that you are marching through Campania? Do you expect the fountains, the streams, the shades, the baths, and houses of refreshment you met with there? and will you never remember, that you are traversing the barren confines of the Arabians and Assyrians?” Thus the traitor admonished, or rather insulted the Romans, and got off at last before his imposture was discovered. Nor was this without the general’s knowledge; he even persuaded him then, that he was going upon some scheme to put the enemy in disorder.

It is said, that Crassus on that day did not appear in a purple robe, such as the Roman generals used to wear, but in a black one; and when he perceived his mistake he went and changed it. Some of the standards too were so rooted in the ground, that they could not be moved without the greatest efforts. Crassus only laughed at the omen, and hastened his march the more, making the foot keep up with the cavalry. Mean time the remains of a reconnoitring party returned, with an account that their comrades were killed by the Parthians, and that they had escaped with great difficulty. At the same time they assured him, that the enemy was advancing with very numerous forces and in the highest spirits.

This intelligence spread great dismay among the troops, and Crassus was the most terrified of all. In his confusion he had scarcely understanding enough about him to draw up his army properly. At first, agreeably to the opinion of Cassius, he extended

the front of his infantry so as to occupy a great space of ground, to prevent their being surrounded, and distributed the cavalry in the wings. But soon altering his mind, he drew up the legions in a close square and made a front every way, each front consisting of twelve cohorts. Every cohort had its troop of horse allotted it, that no part might remain unsupported by the cavalry, but that the whole might advance with equal security to the charge. One of the wings was given to Cassius, the other to young Crassus, and the general placed himself in the centre.

In this order they moved forward, till they came to a river called Balissus, which in itself was not considerable, but the sight of it gave great pleasure to the soldiers, as well on account of their heat and thirst, as the fatigues of a march through a dry and sandy desert. Most of the officers were of opinion that they ought to pass the night there, and after having got the best intelligence they could of the number of the enemy and their order, advance against them at break of day. But Crassus, carried away by the eagerness of his son, and of the cavalry about him, who called upon him to lead them to the charge, commanded those who wanted refreshment, to take it as they stood in their ranks. Before they had all done he began his march, not leisurely and with proper pauses, as is necessary in going to battle, but with a quick and continued pace till they came in sight of the enemy, who appeared neither so numerous nor so formidable as they had expected. For Surena had concealed his main force behind the advanced guard, and to prevent their being discovered by the glittering of their armour, he had ordered them to cover it with their coats or with skins.

When both armies were near enough to engage, and the generals had given the signal, the field resounded with a horrid din and dreadful bellowing. For the Parthians do not excite their men to action
with

with cornets and trumpets, but with certain hollow instruments covered with leather, and surrounded with brass bells which they beat continually. The sound is deep and dismal, something between the howling of wild beasts and the crashing of thunder; and it was from sage reflection they had adopted it, having observed, that of all the senses, that of hearing soonest disturbs the mind, agitates the passions, and unhinges the understanding.

While the Romans were trembling at the horrid noise, the Parthians suddenly uncovered their arms, and appeared like battalions of fire, with the gleam of their breast-plates and their helmets of Margian steel polished to the greatest perfection. Their cavalry too, completely armed in brass and steel, shed a lustre no less striking. At the head of them appeared Surena, tall and well made; but his feminine beauty did not promise such courage as he was possessed of. For he was dressed in the fashion of the Medes, with his face painted, and his hair curled and equally parted; while the rest of the Parthians wore their hair in great disorder, like the Scythians, to make themselves look more terrible.

At first, the barbarians intended to have charged with their pikes, and opened a way through the foremost ranks; but when they saw the depth of the Roman battalions, the closeness of their order, and the firmness of their standing, they drew back, and, under the appearance of breaking their ranks and dispersing, wheeled about and surrounded the Romans. At that instant Crassus ordered his archers and light infantry to begin the charge. But they had not gone far, before they were saluted with a shower of arrows, which came with such force and did so much execution, as drove them back upon the battalions. This was the beginning of disorder and consternation among the heavy-armed, when they beheld the force and strength of the arrows, against which no armour was proof, and whose keenness no-

thing could resist. The Parthians now separated, and began to exercise their artillery upon the Romans on all sides at a considerable distance; not needing to take any exact aim, by reason of the closeness and depth of the square in which their adversaries were drawn up. Their bows were large and strong, yet capable of bending till the arrows were drawn to the head; the force they went with was consequently very great, and the wounds they gave mortal.

The Romans were now in a dreadful situation. If they stood still, they were pierced through; if they advanced, they could make no reprisals, and yet were sure to meet their fate. For the Parthians shoot as they fly; and this they do with dexterity inferior only to the Scythians. It is indeed an excellent expedient, because they save themselves by retiring, and, by fighting all the while, escape the disgrace of flight.

While the Romans had any hopes that the Parthians would spend all their arrows and quit the combat, or else advance hand to hand, they bore their distresses with patience. But as soon as it was perceived, that behind the enemy there was a number of camels loaded with arrows, from whence the first ranks, after they emptied their quivers, were supplied, Crassus seeing no end of his sufferings, was greatly distressed. The step he took, was, to send orders to his son to get up with the enemy, and charge them, if possible, before he was quite surrounded: for it was principally against him that one wing of the Parthian cavalry directed their efforts, in hopes of taking him in the rear. Upon this, the young man took thirteen hundred horse, of which those he had from Caesar made a thousand, five hundred archers, and eight cohorts of infantry which were next at hand, and wheeled about to come to the charge. However, the Parthians, whether it was that they were afraid to meet a detachment that came against them in such good order, which some say was the case; or whether

ther they wanted to draw young Crassus as far as they possibly could from his father, turned their backs and fled *. The young man cried out, *They dare not stand us*, and followed at full speed. So did Cenforinus and Megabacchus †; the latter a man noted for his strength and courage, and the former a person of senatorial dignity, and an excellent orator. Both were intimate friends of young Crassus, and nearly of his age.

The cavalry kept on, and such was the alacrity and spirit of hope with which the infantry were inspired, that they were not left behind; for they imagined, they were only pursuing a conquered enemy. But they had not gone far before they found how much they were deceived. The pretended fugitives faced about, and many others joining them, advanced to the encounter. The Romans, upon this, made a stand, supposing the enemy would come to close quarters with them, because their number was but small. The Parthians, however, only formed a line of their heavy-armed cavalry opposite their adversaries, and then ordered their irregulars to gallop round, and beat up the sand and dust in such a manner, that the Romans could scarcely either see or speak for the clouds of it. Besides, the latter were drawn up in so small a compass, and pressed so close upon each other, that they were a very fair mark for the enemy. Their death too was lingering. They rolled about in agonies of pain with the arrows sticking in them, and before they died, endeavoured to

* It was their common method not to stand a pitched battle with troops that were in any degree their match. In retreating and advancing, as occasion required, they knew the advantage they had in the swiftness of their horses, and in the excellence of their archers.

† It is not easy to say what Roman name Megabacchus could be the corruption of. Xylander tells us he found in an old translation *Cnei Plancus*. Probably, that translator might have the authority of some manuscript.

pull out the barbed points which were entangled within their veins and sinews; an effort that served only to enlarge their wounds, and add to their torture.

Many died in this miserable manner, and those who survived were not fit for action. When Publius* desired them to attack the heavy-armed cavalry, they shewed him their hands nailed to their shields, and their feet fastened to the ground, so that they could neither fight nor fly. He therefore encouraged his cavalry, and advanced with great vigour to the charge. But the dispute was by no means upon an equality, either in respect of attack or defence. For his men had only weak and short javelins to attempt the Parthian cuirasses which were made either of raw hides or steel; while the enemy's strong pikes could easily make an impression upon the naked or light-armed Gauls. These were the troops in which he placed his chief confidence, and indeed he worked wonders with them. They laid hold on the pikes of the barbarians, and grappling with them, pulled them from their horses, and threw them on the ground, where they could hardly stir by reason of the weight of their armour. Many of them even quitted their own horses, and getting under those of the Parthians, wounded them in the belly; upon which the horses, mad with pain, plunged and threw their riders, and treading them under foot along with the enemy, at last fell down dead upon both. What went hardest against the Gauls was heat and thirst, for they had not been accustomed to either. And they had lost most of their horses by advancing furiously against the enemy's pikes.

They had now no resource, but to retire to their infantry, and to carry off young Crassus, who was much wounded. But happening to see a hill of sand by the way, they retired to it; and having placed their horses in the middle, they locked their

* Young Crassus.

shields together all round, imagining that would prove the best defence against the barbarians. It happened, however, quite otherwise. While they were upon plain ground, the foremost ranks afforded some shelter to those behind; but upon an eminence, the unevenness of the ground shewed one above another, and those behind higher than those before, so that there was no chance for any of them to escape: they fell promiscuously, lamenting their inglorious fate, and the impossibility of exerting themselves to the last.

Young Crassus had with him two Greeks, named Hieronymus and Nicomachus, who had settled in that country in the town of Carrae. These advised him to retire with them, and to make his escape to Ischnae, a city which had adopted the Roman interests, and was at no great distance. But he answered, "There was no death, however dreadful, the fear of which could make him leave so many brave men dying for his sake." At the same time, he desired them to save themselves, and then embraced and dismissed them. As his own hand was transfixed with an arrow, and he could not use it, he offered his side to his armour bearer, and ordered him to strike the blow. Censorinus is said to have died in the same manner. As for Megabacchus, he dispatched himself with his own hand, and the other principal officers followed his example. The rest fell by the Parthian pikes, after they had defended themselves gallantly to the last. The enemy did not make above five hundred prisoners.

When they had cut off the head of young Crassus, they marched with it to his father, whose affairs were in this posture. After he had ordered his son to charge the Parthians, news was brought him that they fled with great precipitation, and that the Romans pursued them with equal vivacity. He perceived also that on his side the enemy's operations were comparatively feeble; for the greatest part of

them were gone after his son. Hereupon, he recovered his spirits in some degree, and drew his forces back to some higher ground, expecting every moment his son's return from the pursuit.

Publius had sent several messengers to inform him of his danger; but the first had fallen in with the barbarians, and were cut in pieces; and the last having escaped with great difficulty, told him, his son was lost, if he had not large and immediate succours. Crassus was so distracted by different passions, that he could not form any rational scheme. On the one hand, he was afraid of sacrificing the whole army, and on the other, anxious for the preservation of his son; but at last he resolved to march to his assistance.

Mean time, the enemy advanced with loud shouts and songs of victory, which made them appear more terrible; and all the drums bellowing again in the ears of the Romans, gave the notice of another engagement. The Parthians coming forward with the head of Publius upon a spear, demanded in the most contemptuous manner, whether they knew the family and parents of the young man. "For," said they, "it is not possible that so brave and gallant a youth should be the son of Crassus, the greatest dastard and the meanest wretch in the world."

This spectacle broke the spirits of the Romans, more than all the calamities they had met with. Instead of exciting them to revenge, as might have been expected, it produced a horror and tremor which ran through the whole army. Nevertheless, Crassus, on this melancholy occasion, behaved with greater magnanimity than he had ever shewn before. He marched up and down the ranks, and cried, "Romans, this loss is mine. The fortunes and glory of Rome stand safe and undiminished in you. If you have any pity for me, who am bereaved of the best of sons, shew it in your resentment against the enemy. Put an end to their triumph;

“ triumph ; avenge their cruelty. Be not astonished
 “ at this loss ; they must always have something to
 “ suffer, who aspire to great things. Lucullus did
 “ not pull down Tigranes, nor Scipio, Antiochus,
 “ without some expence of blood. Our ancestors
 “ lost a thousand ships before they reduced Sicily ;
 “ and many great officers and generals in Italy,
 “ but no previous loss prevented their subduing the
 “ conquerors. For it was not by her good fortune,
 “ but by the perseverance and fortitude with which
 “ she combated adversity, that Rome has risen to her
 “ present height of power ?”

Craſſus, though he thus endeavoured to animate his troops, did not find many listen to him with pleasure. He was sensible their depression still continued, when he ordered them to shout for the battle ; for their shout was feeble, languid, and unequal, while that of the barbarians was bold and strong. When the attack began, the light-armed cavalry taking the Romans in flank, galled them with their arrows ; while the heavy-armed charging them in front with their pikes, drove them into a narrow space. Some, indeed, to avoid a more painful death from the arrows, advanced with the resolution of despair, but did not do much execution. All the advantage they had, was, that they were speedily dispatched by the large wounds they received from the broad heads of the enemy’s strong pikes, which they pushed with such violence, that they often pierced through two men at once *.

The fight continued in this manner all day ; and when the barbarians came to retire, they said,
 “ They would give Craſſus one night to bewail his
 “ son ; if he did not in the mean time consider better,
 “ and rather chuse to go and surrender himself to
 “ Arsaces, than be carried.” Then they sat down

* There is nothing incredible in this, for it is frequently done by the Tartars in the same mode of fighting at this day.

near the Roman army, and passed the night in great satisfaction, hoping to finish the affair the next day.

It was a melancholy and dreadful night to the Romans. They took no care to bury the dead, nor any notice of the wounded, many of which were expiring in great agonies. Every man had his own fate to deplore. That fate appeared inevitable, whether they remained where they were, or threw themselves in the night into that boundless plain. They found a great objection too, against retiring, in the wounded, who would retard their flight, if they attempted to carry them off, and alarm the enemy with their cries, if they were left behind.

As for Crassus, though they believed him the cause of all their miseries, they wanted him to make his appearance and speak to them. But he had covered his head, chosen darkness for his companion, and stretched himself upon the ground. A sad example to the vulgar of the instability of fortune; and to men of deeper thought, of the effects of rashness and ill-placed ambition. Not contented with being the first and greatest among many millions of men, he had considered himself in a mean light, because there were two above him.

Octavius, one of his lieutenants, and Cassius, endeavoured to raise him from the ground and console him, but found that he gave himself entirely up to despair. They then, by their own authority, summoned the centurions and other officers to a council of war, in which it was resolved that they should retire. Accordingly they began to do so without sound of trumpet, and silently enough at first. But when the sick and wounded perceived that they were going to be deserted, their doleful cries and lamentations filled the whole army with confusion and disorder. Still greater terrors seized them as they proceeded, the foremost troops imagining that those behind were enemies. They often missed their way, often stopped to put themselves in some order, or to take some of
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the wounded off the beasts of burthen, and put others on. By these things they lost a great deal of time; insomuch that Ignatius only, who made the best of his way with three hundred horse, arrived at Carrae about midnight. He saluted the guards in Latin, and when he perceived they heard him, he bade them go and tell Coponius who commanded there, that Crassus had fought a great battle with the Parthians. Then, without explaining himself farther, or acquainting them who he was, he made off as fast as possible to Zeugma; by which means he saved himself and his troop, but at the same time was much blamed for deserting his general.

However, Crassus found his advantage in the hint given to Coponius. That officer considering that the hurry and confusion with which the message was delivered, betokened no good, ordered his men to arm; and as soon as he was apprised that Crassus was marching that way, he went out to meet him, and conducted his army into the town.

Though the Parthians in the night perceived the flight of the Romans, they did not pursue them; but at break of day they fell upon those that were left in the camp and dispatched them, to the number of four thousand. The cavalry also picked up many others who were straggling upon the plain. One of the Roman officers, named Varguntinus, had wandered in the night from the main body with four cohorts, and was found next morning posted upon a hill. The barbarians surrounded their little corps, and killed them all, except twenty men. These made their way through the enemy, sword in hand, who let them pass, and they arrived safe at Carrae.

A rumour was now brought to Surena, that Crassus with the best of his officers and troops had escaped, and that those who had retired into Carrae, were only a mixed multitude not worth his notice. He was afraid, therefore, that he had lost the fruits of his victory; but not being absolutely certain, he
wanted

wanted better information, in order to determine whether he should besiege Carrae, or pursue Crassus, wherever he might have fled. For this purpose he dispatched an interpreter to the walls, who was to call Crassus or Cassius in Latin, and tell them that Surena demanded a conference. As soon as the business of the interpreter was made known to Crassus, he accepted the proposal. And not long after, certain Arabians arrived from the same quarter, who knew Crassus and Cassius well, having been in the Roman camp before the battle. These seeing Cassius upon the walls, told him, " Surena was ready " to conclude a peace with them, on condition they " would be upon terms of friendship with the king " his master, and give up Mesopotamia: for he " thought this more advantageous to both, than " coming to extremities." Cassius embraced the overture, and demanded that the time and place might be fixed for an interview between Surena and Crassus; which the Arabians undertook for, and then rode off.

Surena, delighted to find that the Romans were in a place where they might be besieged, led his Parthians against them the next day. These barbarians treated them with great insolence, and told them, if they wanted either peace or truce, they must deliver up Crassus, and Cassius bound. The Romans, greatly afflicted at finding themselves so imposed upon, told Crassus, he must give up his distant and vain hopes of succours from the Armenians, and resolve upon flight. This resolution ought to have been concealed from all the inhabitants of Carrae till the moment it was put in execution. But Crassus revealed it to Andromachus, one of the most perfidious amongst them, whom he also chose for his guide. From this traitor the Parthians learned every step that was taken.

As it was not their custom, nor consequently very practicable for them to fight in the night, and it was
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in the night that Crassus marched out, Andromachus contrived that they might not be far behind. With this view he artfully led the Romans sometimes one way, sometimes another, and at last entangled them among deep marshes and ditches, where it was difficult to get either forward or backward. There were several who conjectured from this shifting and turning, that Andromachus had some ill design, and therefore refused to follow him any farther. As for Cassius, he returned to Carrae; and when his guides, who were Arabians, advised him to wait till the moon had passed the Scorpion, he answered, "I am more afraid of the Sagittary *." Then making the best of his way, he got into Assyria with five hundred horse. Others finding faithful guides, reached the mountains of Sinnaca, and were perfectly secure, before it was light. These, about five thousand in number, were under the conduct of Octavius, a man of great merit and honour.

Mean time day overtook Crassus, while through the treachery of Andromachus, he was wandering in bogs and other impracticable ground. He had with him only four cohorts of infantry, a very small number of horse, and five lictors. At length he regained the road with much labour and difficulty; but by this time the enemy was coming up. He was not above twelve furlongs behind the corps under Octavius. However, as he could not join him, all he could do, was, to retire to a hill, not so secure against cavalry as Sinnaca, but situated under those mountains, and connected with them by a long ridge which ran through the plain. Octavius, therefore, could see the danger Crassus was in, and he immediately ran down with a small band to his assistance. Upon this, the rest reproaching themselves for staying behind, descended from the heights, and falling upon the Parthians, drove them from the hill. Then they took Crassus in the midst of them, and fencing

* Alluding to the Parthian archers,

him

him with their shields, boldly declared, that no Parthian arrow should touch their general, while any of them were left alive.

Surena now perceiving that the Parthians were less vigorous in their attacks, and that if night came on, and the Romans gained the mountains, they would be entirely out of his reach, formed a stratagem to get Crassus into his hands. He dismissed some of his prisoners, after they had heard the conversation of the Parthian soldiers, who had been instructed to say, that the king did not want perpetual war with the Romans, but had rather renew the friendship and alliance by his generous treatment of Crassus. After this manoeuvre, the barbarians withdrew from the combat, and Surena, with a few of his principal officers, advancing gently to the hill, where he unstrung his bow, and offering his hand, invited Crassus to an agreement. He said, "the king had hitherto, contrary to his inclinations, given proofs of his power, but now he would with pleasure shew his moderation and clemency, in coming to terms with the Romans, and suffering them to depart in peace."

The troops received this proposal of Surena with joy. But Crassus, whose errors had all been owing to the Parthian treachery and deceit, and thought this sudden change in their behaviour a very suspicious circumstance, did not accept the overture, but stood deliberating. Hereupon, the soldiers raised a great outcry, and bade him go down. Then they proceeded to insults and reproaches, telling him, "he was very willing to expose them to the weapons of the Parthians but did not dare to meet them himself, when they had laid down their arms, and wanted only a friendly conference."

At first he had recourse to intreaties, and represented, that if they would but hold out the remainder of the day, they might in the night gain the mountains and rocks which would be inaccessible to cavalry,

cavalry. At the same time he pointed to the way, and begged of them not to forego the hopes of safety when they had it so near. But when he found they received his address with anger, and clashing their arms in a menacing manner, he was terrified, and began to go; only turning round a moment to speak these few words, "You, Octavius, and you, Petronius, and all you Roman officers that are present, are witnesses of the necessity I am under to take this step, and conscious of the dishonour and violence I suffer. But when you are safe, pray tell the world that I was deceived by the enemy, and not that I was abandoned by my countrymen."

However, Octavius and Petronius would not stay behind; they descended the hill with him. His lictors too would have followed, but he sent them back. The first persons that met him, on the part of the barbarians, were two Greeks of the half breed. They dismounted and made Crassus a low reverence, and addressing him in Greek, desired he would send some of his people to see that Surena and his company came unarmed and without any weapons concealed about them. Crassus answered, "that if his life had been of any account with him, he should not have trusted himself in their hands." Nevertheless, he sent two brothers of the name of Roscius before him, to enquire upon what footing, and how many of each side were to meet. Surena detained those messengers, and advanced in person with his principal officers on horseback. "What is this," said he, "I behold? A Roman general on foot, when we are on horseback?" Then he ordered a horse to be brought for him. But Crassus answered, "There was no error on either side, since each came to treat after the manner of his country." "Then," said Surena, "from this moment there shall be peace and an alliance between Orodes and the Romans; but the treaty must be signed upon the banks of the

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“the Euphrates : for you Romans remember your agreements very ill.” Then he offered him his hand ; and when Crassus would have sent for a horse he told him, “there was no need ; the king would supply him of one.” At the same time a horse was brought with furniture of gold, and the equestrians having mounted Crassus, began to drive him forward. Octavius then laid hold on the bridle ; in which he was followed by Petronius, a legionary tribune. Afterwards the rest of the Romans who attended, endeavoured to stop the horse, and to draw off those who pressed upon Crassus on each side. A scuffle and tumult ensued, which ended in blows. Thereupon Octavius drew his sword, and killed one of the Parthian grooms ; and another coming behind Octavius, dispatched him. Petronius who had no arms to defend him, received a stroke on his breastplate, but leaped from his horse unwounded. Crassus was killed by a Parthian named Pomaxaethres* : though some say, another dispatched him, and Pomaxaethres cut off his head and right hand. Indeed, all these circumstances must be rather from conjecture than knowledge. For part of those who attended, were slain in attempting to defend Crassus, and the rest had run up the hill on the first alarm.

After this, the Parthians went and addressed themselves to the troops at the top. They told them, Crassus had met with the reward his injustice deserved ; but, as for them, Surena desired they would come down boldly, for they had nothing to fear. Upon this promise some went down and surrendered themselves. Others attempted to get off in the night ; but very few of those escaped. The rest were hunted by the Arabians, and either taken or put to the sword. It is said, that in all there were twenty thousand killed, and ten thousand made prisoners.

* Appian calls him Maxaethres, and in some copies of Plutarch he is called Axathres.

Surena sent the head and hand to Orodes in Armenia; notwithstanding which he ordered his messengers to give it out at Seleucia, that he was bringing Crassus alive. Pursuant to this report, he prepared a kind of mock procession, which by way of ridicule he called triumph. Caius Pacianus, who, of all the prisoners, most resembled Crassus, was dressed in a rich robe in the Parthian fashion, and instructed to answer to the name of Crassus and title of general. Thus accoutred, he marched on horseback at the head of the Romans. Before him marched the trumpets and lictors, mounted upon camels. Upon the rods were suspended empty purses, and on the axes heads of the Romans newly cut off. Behind came the Seleucian courtezans with music, singing scurrilous and farcical songs upon the effeminacy and cowardice of Crassus.

These things were to amuse the populace. But after the farce was over, Surena assembled the senate of Seleucia, and produced the obscene books of Aristides called *Milesiads*. Nor was this a groundless invention to blacken the Romans. For the books being really found in the baggage of Rustius *, gave Surena an excellent opportunity to say many sharp and satirical things of the Romans, who even in time of war could not refrain from such libidinous actions and abominable books.

This scene put the Seleucians in mind of the wise remark of Æsop. They saw Surena had put the Milesian obscenities in the forepart of the wallet, and behind they beheld a Parthian sybaris †, with a long train of carriages full of harlots; insomuch that his army resembled the serpents called *Scytalæ*. Fierce and formidable in its head, it presented nothing but pikes, artillery and war-horses; while the tail ridiculously enough exhibited prostitutes, musical instru-

* One of the Bodleian manuscripts has it Roscius.

† Sybaris was a town in Lucania, famous for its luxury and effeminacy.

ments, and nights spent in singing and riot with those women. Rustius undoubtedly was to be blamed, but it was an impudent thing in the Parthians to censure the *Milesians*, when many of the Arsacidae who filled the throne, were sons of Milesian or Ionian courtezans.

During these transactions, Orodes was reconciled to Artavasdes the Armenian, and had agreed to a marriage between that prince's sister and his son Pacorus. On this occasion they freely went to each others entertainments, in which many of the Greek tragedies were presented. For Orodes was not unversed in the Grecian literature; and Artavasdes had written tragedies himself, as well as orations and histories, some of which are still extant. In one of these entertainments, while they were yet at table, the head of Crassus was brought to the door. Jason, a tragedian of the city of Tralles, was rehearsing the *Bacchae* of Euripides, and in the tragical adventures of Pentheus and Agave. All the company were expressing their admiration of the pieces, when Sillaces entering the apartment prostrated himself before the king, and laid the head of Crassus at his feet. The Parthians welcomed it with acclamations of joy, and the attendants, by the king's order, placed Sillaces at the table. Hereupon, Jason gave one of the actors the habit of Pentheus, in which he had appeared, and putting on that of Agave, with the frantic air and all the enthusiasm of a bacchanal, sung that part where Agave presents the head of Pentheus upon her Thyrsus, fancying it to be that of a young lion—

*Well are our toils repay'd: On yonder mountain
We pierc'd the lordly savage.*

Finding the company extremely delighted, he went on—

The Chorus asks, *Who gave the glorious blow?*
Agave answers, *Mine, mine is the prize.*

Pomax-

Pomaxaethres, who was sitting at the table, upon hearing this, started up, and would have taken the head from Jason, insisting that that part belonged to him, and not to the actor. The king, highly diverted, made Pomaxaethres the presents usual on such occasions, and rewarded Jason with a talent. The expedition of Crassus was a real tragedy, and such was the *exodium* *, or farce after it.

However, the divine justice punished Orodes for his cruelty, and Surena for his perjury. Orodes, envying the glory Surena had acquired, put him to death soon after. And that prince, having lost his son Pacorus in a battle with the Romans, fell into a languishing disorder which turned to a dropsy. His second son Phraates took the opportunity to give him aconite. But finding the poison worked only upon the watery humour, and was carrying off the disease with it, he took a shorter method, and strangled him with his own hands †.

* *Exodium*, in its original sense, signified the unravelling of the plot, the catastrophe of a tragedy; and it retained that sense among the Greeks. But when the Romans began to act their light satirical pieces (of which they had always been very fond) after their tragedies, they applied the term to those pieces.

† There have been more execrable characters, but there is not perhaps in the history of mankind one more contemptible than that of Crassus. His ruling passion was the most sordid lust of wealth, and the whole of his conduct, political, popular, and military, was subservient to this. If at any time he gave into public munificence, it was with him no more than a species of commerce. By thus treating the people he was laying out his money in the purchase of provinces. When Syria fell to his lot, the transports he discovered, sprung not from the great ambition of carrying the Roman Eagles over the East; they were nothing more than the joy of a miser, when he stumbles upon a hidden treasure. Dazzled with the prospect of barbarian gold, he grasped with eagerness a command for which he had no adequate capacity. We find him embarrassed by the slightest difficulties in his military operations, and, where his obstinacy would permit him, taking his measures from the advice of his lieutenants. We look with indignation on the Roman squadrons standing, by his dispositions, as

a mark for the Parthian archers, and incapable of acting either on the offensive or the defensive. The Romans could not be ignorant of the Parthian method of attacking and retreating, when they had before spent so much time in Armenia. The fame of their cavalry could not be unknown in a country where it was so much dreaded. It was therefore the first business of the Roman general to avoid those countries which might give them any advantage in the equestrian action. But the hot scent of Eastern treasure made him a dupe even to the policy of the barbarians, and to arrive at this the nearest way, he sacrificed the lives of thirty thousand Romans.

N I C I A S

NICIAS *and* CRASSUS, *compared.*

ONE of the first things that occurs in this comparison, is, that Nicias gained his wealth in a less exceptionable manner than Crassus. The working of mines, indeed, does not seem very suitable to a man of Nicias's character, where the persons employed are commonly malefactors or barbarians, some of which work in fetters, till the damps and unwholesome air put an end to their being. But it is comparatively an honourable pursuit, when put in parallel with getting an estate by the confiscations of Sylla, or by buying houses in the midst of fires. Yet Crassus dealt as openly in these things as he did in agriculture and usury. As to the other matters which he was censured for, and which he denied, namely, his making money of his vote in the senate, his extorting it from the allies, his over-reaching silly women by flattery, and his undertaking the defence of ill men; nothing like these things was ever imputed by slander herself to Nicias. As to his wasting his money upon those who made a trade of impeachments, to prevent their doing him any harm, it was a circumstance which exposed him to ridicule; and unworthy, perhaps, of the characters of Pericles and Aristides; but necessary for him who had

a timidity in his nature. It was a thing which Lycurgus the orator afterwards made a merit of to the people; when censured for having bought off one of these trading informers, "I rejoice," said he, "that after having been so long employed in the administration, I am discovered to have given money, and not taken it."

As to their expences, Nicias appears to have been more public-spirited in his. His offerings to the gods, and the games and tragedies with which he entertained the people, were so many proofs of noble and generous sentiments. It is true, all that Nicias laid out in this manner, and indeed his whole estate, amounted only to a small part of what Crassus expended at once, in entertaining so many myriads of men, and supplying them with bread afterwards. But it would be very strange to me, if there should be any one who does not perceive, that this vice is nothing but an inequality and inconsistency of character; particularly when he sees men laying out that money in an honourable manner, which they have got dishonourably. So much with regard to their riches.

If we consider their behaviour in the administration, we shall not find in Nicias any instance of cunning, injustice, violence or effrontery. On the contrary, he suffered Alcibiades to impose upon him, and he was modest or rather timid in his applications to the people. Whereas Crassus, in turning from his friends to his enemies, and back again if his interest required it, is justly accused of an illiberal duplicity. Nor could he deny that he used violence to attain the consulship, when he hired ruffians to lay their hands upon Cato and Domitius. In the assembly that was held for the allotment of the provinces, many were wounded, and four citizens killed. Nay, Crassus himself struck a senator named Lucius Annalius, who opposed his measures, upon the face with his fist (a circumstance which escaped us in his life),

life), and drove him out of the Forum covered with blood.

But if Crassus was too violent and tyrannical in his proceedings, Nicias was as much too timid. His poltroonery and mean submission to the most abandoned persons in the state, deserves the greatest reproach. Besides, Crassus shewed some magnanimity and dignity of sentiment, in contending, not with such wretches as Cleon and Hyperbolus, but with the glory of Caesar, and the three triumphs of Pompey. In fact, he maintained the dispute well with them for power, and in the high honour of the censorship he was even beyond Pompey. For he who wants to stand at the helm, should not consider what may expose him to envy, but what is great and glorious, and may by its lustre force envy to speak behind. But, if security and repose are to be consulted above all things; if you are afraid of Alcibiades upon the *rostrum*, of the Lacedaemonians at Pylos, and of Perdiccas in Thrace, then surely, Nicias, Athens is wide enough to afford you a corner to retire to, where you may weave yourself the soft crown of tranquillity; as some of the philosophers express it. The love Nicias had for peace, was indeed a divine attachment, and his endeavours during his whole administration to put an end to the war, were worthy of the Grecian humanity. This alone places him in so honourable a light, that Crassus could not have been compared with him, though he had made the Caspian sea or the Indian ocean the boundary of the Roman empire.

Nevertheless, in a commonwealth which retains any sentiments of virtue, he who has the lead, should not give place for a moment to persons of no principle; he should intrust no charge with those who want capacity, nor place any confidence in those who want honour. And Nicias certainly did this in raising Cleon to the command of the army: a man who had nothing to recommend him but his impudence

dence and his bawling in the rostrum. On the other hand, I do not commend Crassus for advancing to action, in the war with Spartacus, with more expedition than prudence: though his ambition had this excuse, that he was afraid Pompey would come and snatch his laurels from him, as Mummius had done from Metellus at Corinth. But the conduct of Nicias was very absurd and mean-spirited*. He would not give up to his enemy the honour and trust of commander in chief while he could execute that charge with ease, and had good hopes of success; but as soon as he saw it attended with great danger, he was willing to secure himself, though he exposed the public by it. It was not thus Themistocles behaved in the Persian war. To prevent the advancement of a man to the command who had neither capacity nor principle, which he knew must have been the ruin of his country, he prevailed with him by a sum of money to give up his pretensions. And Cato stood for the tribuneship, when he saw it would involve him in the greatest trouble and danger. On the contrary, Nicias was willing enough to be general, when he had only to go against Minoa, Cythera, or the poor Melians; but if there was occasion to fight with the Lacedaemonians, he put off his armour, and entrusted the ships, the men, the warlike stores, in short, the entire direction of a war which required the most consummate prudence and experience, to the ignorance and rashness of Cleon. In which he was not only unjust to himself and his own honour, but to the welfare and safety of his country. This made the Athenians send him afterwards, contrary to his inclination, against Syracuse. They thought it was not a conviction of the improbability of success, but a regard to his own ease, and a want of spirit, which made him willing to deprive them of the conquest of Sicily.

* The sense requires, that we should read *δειλον* not *δεινον*.

There is, however, this great proof of his integrity, that though he was perpetually against war, and always declined the command, yet they failed not to appoint him to it, as the ablest and best general they had. But Crassus, though he was for ever aiming at such a charge, never gained one, except in the war with the gladiators; and that only because Pompey, Metellus, and both the Lucullus's were absent. This is the more remarkable, because Crassus was arrived at a high degree of authority and power. But, it seems, his best friends thought him (as the comic poet expresses it)

In all trades skill'd, except the trade of war.

However, this knowledge of his talents availed the Romans but little; his ambition never let them rest, till they assigned him a province. The Athenians employed Nicias against his inclination; and it was against the inclination of the Romans, that Crassus led them out. Crassus involved his country in misfortunes; but the misfortunes of Nicias were owing to his country.

Nevertheless, in this respect it is easier to commend Nicias than to blame Crassus. The capacity and skill of the former as a general, kept him from being drawn away with the vain hopes of his countrymen, and he declared from the first that Sicily could not be conquered: The latter called out the Romans to the Parthian war, as an easy undertaking. In this he found himself sadly deceived; yet his aim was great. While Caesar was subduing the west, the Gauls, the Germans, and Britain, he attempted to penetrate to the Indian ocean on the east, and to conquer all Asia; things which Pompey and Lucullus would have effected if they had been able. But though they were both engaged in the same designs, and made the same attempts with Crassus, their characters stood unimpeached both as to moderation and probity.

probity. If Crassus was opposed by one of the tribunes in his Parthian expedition, Pompey was opposed by the senate when he got Asia for his province. And when Caesar had routed three hundred thousand Germans, Cato voted that he should be given up to that injured people, to atone for the violation of the peace. But the Roman people, paying no regard to Cato, ordered a thanksgiving to the gods for fifteen days, and thought themselves happy in the advantage gained. In what raptures then would they have been, and for how many days would they have offered sacrifices, if Crassus could have sent them an account from Babylon, that he was victorious; and if he had proceeded from thence through Media, Persia, Hyrcania, Susa, and Bactria, and reduced them to the form of Roman provinces. For, according to Euripides, if justice must be violated, and men cannot sit down quiet and contented with their present possessions, it should not be for taking the small town of Scandia, or razing such a castle as Mende; nor yet for going in chace of the fugitive Eginetae, who like birds have retired to another country: the price of injustice should be high; so sacred a thing as right should not be invaded for a trifling consideration, for that would be treating it with contempt indeed. In fact, they who commend Alexander's expedition, and decry that of Crassus, judge of actions only by the event.

As to their military performances, several of Nicias's are very considerable. He gained many battles, and was very near taking Syracuse. Nor were all his miscarriages so many errors; but they were to be imputed partly to his ill health, and partly to the envy of his countrymen at home. On the other hand, Crassus committed so many errors, that fortune had no opportunity to shew him any favour; wherefore we need not so much wonder, that the Parthian power got the better of his incapacity, as that his incapacity prevailed over the good fortune of Rome.

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As one of them paid the greatest attention to divination, and the other entirely disregarded it, and yet both perished alike, it is hard to say whether the observation of omens is a salutary thing or not. Nevertheless, to err on the side of religion, out of regard to ancient and received opinions, is a more pardonable thing, than to err through obstinacy and presumption.

Crassus, however, was not so reproachable in his exit. He did not surrender himself, or submit to be bound, nor was he deluded with vain hopes; but in yielding to the instances of his friends he met his fate, and fell a victim to the perfidy and injustice of the barbarians. Whereas Nicias, from a mean and unmanly fondness for life, put himself in the enemy's hands, by which means he came to a baser and more dishonourable end.

THE END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



